Rosebud's aide beaten up; Ping's man tagged

STORY ON PAGE A2

'Do I poison him or do I shoot him?'

"DO I poison him or do I shoot him?"

On two occasions, Rose Porteous, the Philippines-born wife of Australian mining tycoon Lang Hancock, supposedly asked a Filipino ex-husband how she could get rid of her magnate-husband.

Porteous' ex-spouse, Julian Teodoro, told an inquest in Perth, Australia on Monday that the second time Porteous asked him how she could

DO I/ A5

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2001 ★ 76 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 248 ₱15

Court allows Erap to file case vs Corpus, Inquirer

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has allowed ousted President Joseph Estrada to leave his detention today to file a libel case against the military intelligence chief who claimed he was laundering drug money.

Estrada's lawyers asked the court last week to give him "a few hours" to go to the prosecutor's office in Pasig City to file his P100-million libel complaint against Col. Victor Corpus, head of the

COURT/ A19

Malacañang puts gag on Corpus

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

ARMED Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan has been designated to speak for the Intelligence Service of the AFP led by Col. Victor Corpus, Malacañang said yesterday.

Rigoberto Tiglao, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson, said the move was in accordance with the structure of the AFP, which, he pointed out, had jurisdiction over the Isafp.

Adan's designation was announced on the same day that Corpus—who has accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of, among others, being "the lord of all drug lords"—turned out to have presented a wrong photo of the senator's supposed drug financier, Kim Wong, to the media. (*See story on this page.*)

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER last night, Corpus said Malacañang's decision was "OK" with him. He acknowledged that he had been "overexposed."

"At least it will show that it's not a personal thing between Lacson and me," he said.

Asked by reporters to comment on Corpus' apparent blunder, Tiglao said he was not in a position to assess its impact on the military intelligence chief.

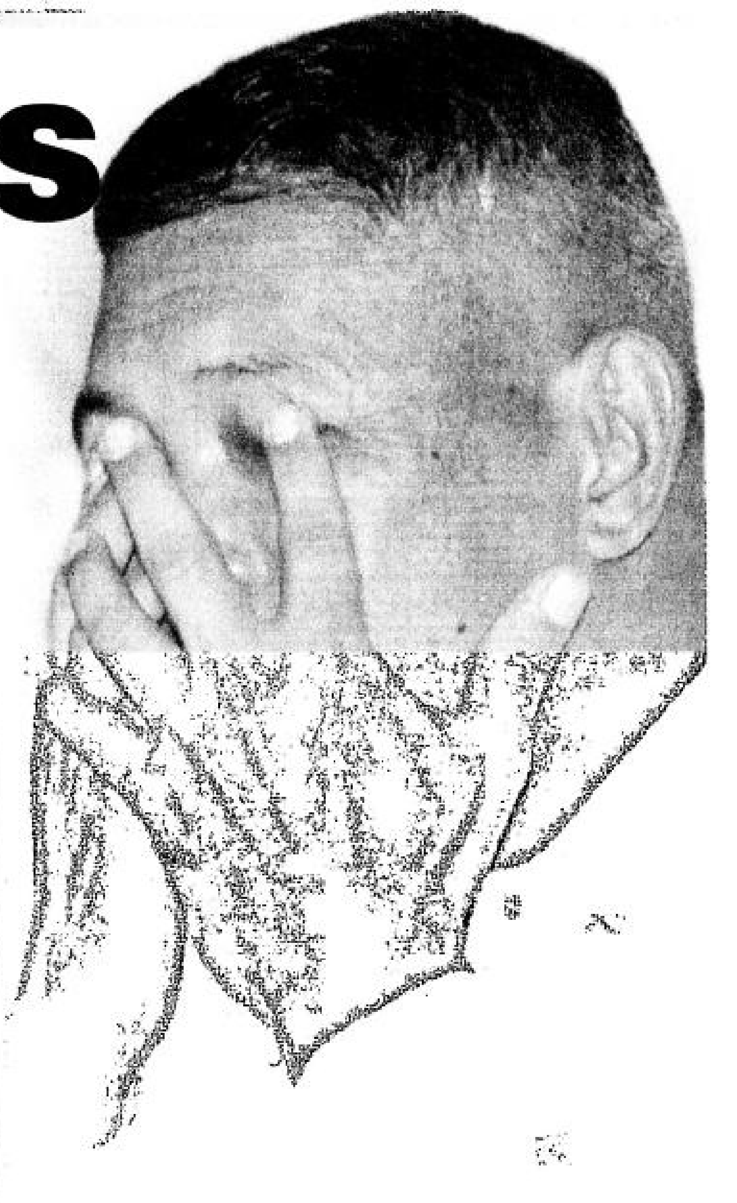
"There's been an agreement that the AFP spokesperson has been designated to speak also for the Isafp since the Isafp is under the AFP," Tiglao said.

Asked if this meant that Corpus would no longer be able to speak with members of the media, Tiglao said the colonel "may or may not."

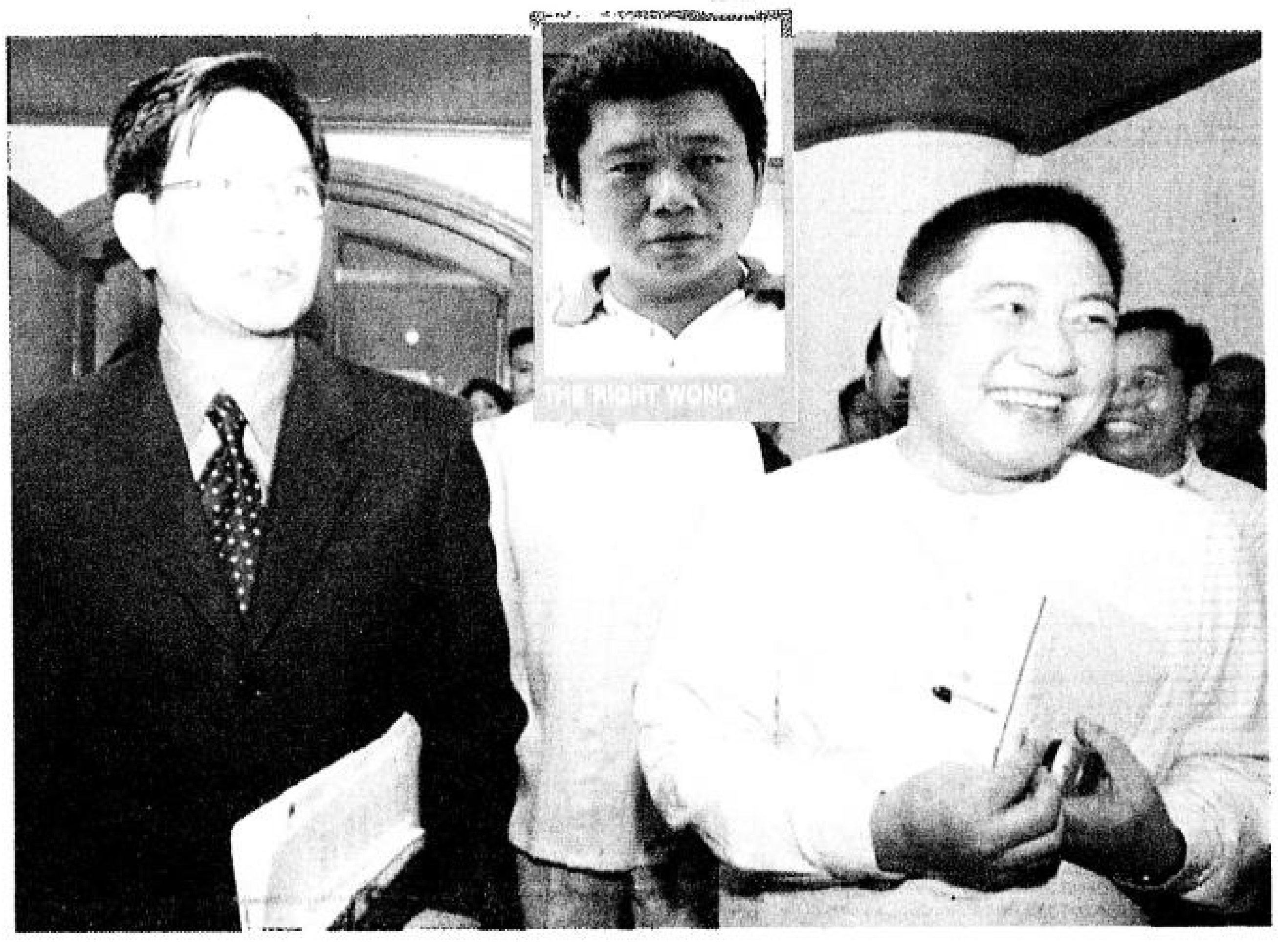
"But all information would have to be directed now to General Adan because this is an Isafp operation, not an operation of the Office of the President," Tiglao said.

Asked if Corpus still enjoyed the

MALACAÑANG/ A19



OH, NO: Col. Victor Corpus (above) admits releasing wrong photo of Kim Wong (inset photo courtesy of GMA-7). JESS YUSON



OH, YES: Sen. Panfilo Lacson (at left) is the picture of a happy man after a big boo-boo made by the Isafp chief, his nemesis. Beside the senator is lawyer Stephen Villaflor who bears a striking similarity to the photo identified by Corpus as Kim Wong.

Isafp chief had wrong Wong

Corpus apologizes; man in photo is Sen. Barbers' aide

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

MILITARY intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus presented a photo of the wrong Kim Wong, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.

"Wow, *mali* (wrong)!" Lacson told Senate reporters, referring to a gag show on television with that title. "Corpus showed a picture of Wong wearing a tie, but that is a different person. My friend Wong has never worn a tie in his life."

Lacson said Corpus should have done a "little homework" and taken pictures of Wong, a businessman, who could easily be found at the restaurants he owned.

Corpus told the INQUIRER in a phone interview last night that he made "an honest mistake" with the photo, citing a computer glitch. "Everyone makes mistakes," he said in Filipino. "I offer my public apology to the person shown in the photo."

The colonel was to have sent a photo of "the Kim Wong under our surveillance" to the INQUIRER last night but it did not make the press deadline.

On Monday Corpus showed reporters a color photo of the purported Kim Wong, who, he said, was Lacson's drug financier and purchasing agent with close ties to the Chinese 14-K drug syndicate.

Corpus said the man in the photo, shown wearing a tie and with a cellular phone held to his ear, had given Lacson a cellular phone and paid the senator's phone bills.

Because of the photo that came out in the newspapers and on television, lawyer Stephen Villaflor, Sen. Robert Barbers' deputy chief of staff, has become an overnight

ISAFP/ A19

Congress plans joint hearings

BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO AND ROCKY NAZARENO

"MAKE haste slowly."

That is what the leaders of Congress vowed to do yesterday, as they sought to speed up legislative action on the proposed anti-money laundering law before the Sept. 30 deadline set by an international task force.

CONGRESS/ A6

Low voter turnout marks plebiscite for bigger ARMM

A MUSLIM woman casts her vote in Rio Hondo, Zamboanga City. CHARLIE SACEDA

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

BLAME it on the rain and flash floods. Some people said it was due to lack of a massive information campaign, while others feared an alleged plan to sabotage the exercise.

Still others were simply not interested.

These reasons were cited for the low turnout of voters in yesterday's plebiscite on the proposed expansion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The Commission on Elections declared a failure of elections in 36 precincts in two coastal towns of Lebak and Kalamansig in Sultan Kudarat province due to flash floods that destroyed roads and bridges.

Foul weather also prompted the Comelec to declare a failure in the Palawan towns of Dumaran and Busuanga and several island-villages in Cuyo and Cagayancillo.

Lawyer Clarita Callar, Comelec director for Central Mindanao, said 7,465 registered voters failed to cast their ballots in Lebak and Kalamansig.

Citing reports reaching her office at 3 p.m. when the voting ended, Callar said turnout was 50-65 percent in some areas of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato, Marawi City and Cotabato City.

Arturo Cocjin, election officer of Cotabato City, said the turnout was "very low" compared with the 1989 plebiscite on the creation of the ARMM.

"I don't know if we could reach 40 percent of the total number of voters in the city," Cocjin said.

Piang Sama Karudin of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, saw the plebiscite as a "useless exercise."

"We do not like to continue with

LOW/ A20

GMA FILMS

UNCOMMERCIAL "Jose Rizal" scores pleasant surprise at box office.

Numerous woes dim local movies' glow

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

WHAT combination of negative factors has brought the Filipino film industry to its knees? It depends on whom you ask.

Ask a distributor of foreign films, and he'll stoutly maintain that the problem isn't Hollywood imports. It's the relatively poor quality of local movies, which has turned viewers off and prompted them to patronize foreign movies instead, because they give better value for money.

If he's a producer, he'll blame the movie industry's current slump on a daunting number of negative factors:

High taxes. Movies are charged 30 percent of their ticket price as amusement tax, and have to pay value-added taxes on raw materials and theater receipts.

Unfair competition from foreign films. While local movies languish, Hollywood imports are bigger than ever, so our homegrown products find it even harder to com-

NUMEROUS/ A5

PDI paper drive saves 600 trees

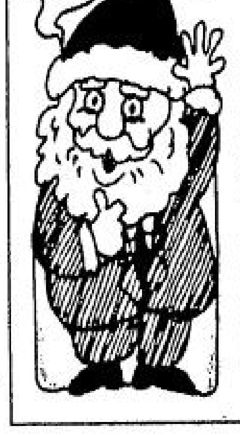
BY CELINE R. MADAMBA

SINCE its launching on June 6, the New Paper Drive of the Philippine Daily Inquirer has collected more than 35,000 kilos of old newspapers and tabloids from some 200 households, schools, parishes and corporations throughout Metro Manila.

When the 35,000 kilos of old newspapers are recycled, the volume of newsprint produced will result in the conservation of at least 600 trees in our country's fast dwindling forests. It takes as many as 19 trees to produce a ton of paper.

The PDI drive, which ends in September, aims to save trees and reduce the volume of garbage through recycling

PDI/ A6



Yes, Virginia, there's a Santa Claus

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Christmas came early for David Porter—otherwise known as Santa Claus.

The Utah Supreme Court recently gave its approval for Porter to officially change his name to Santa Claus.

YES/ A6

HINAHANAP NA ANG TAGUAN!

Rosebud's aide beaten up

By Carlito Pablo

A TRUSTED aide of Mary Ong, one of the witnesses to have accused Sen. Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson of involvement in serious criminal activities, was beaten up the other night by a police officer identified with Lacson.

Dominador "Teng" Bartolata, 25, who has been employed by Ong for the past 11 years, was beaten by Supt. John Campos, a former live-in partner of Ong, at the Petron gas station at the corner of Connecticut Street and Edsa in San Juan, at about 9:30 p.m. on Monday.

Campos backed off when an intelligence agent, who was driving Bartolata, intervened.

Bartolata said Campos was forcing out of him information on the safehouses where Ong and her two children were being secured by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Because of the incident, Isafp has beefed up security arrangements for Ong and her family.

In a text message from Xiamen, China, Ong said the "policemen of Ping" were trying to intimidate her.

She warned them to stay away from her children and her family.

Like a son

She said Teng is like a son to her.

Ong, also known as Rosebud and Mata Hari, was a former Chinese interpreter for the Lacson-led Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Ong was part of a joint military and police team which recently went to the United States to gather evidence regarding Lacson's alleged multimillion-dollar money laundering activities.

Ong earlier implicated Lacson and his associates of kidnapping and holding for ransom Chinese nationals, and of selling illegal drugs that had been confiscated by the police.

"If Teng had been alone, he could have been snatched to extract information from him about Rosebud and her family's location," the Isafp agent, who identified himself only as Raymund, said in Filipino.

The agent said Campos was with a male companion who remained inside a gold Honda Civic car with Plate No. UKY 201.

In shock

Bartolata was still in shock and spoke haltingly when he related the incident at the Station Hospital in Camp Aguinaldo where he was examined.

Bartolata and the Isafp agent were riding in a van on their way to fetch Nelvin, Ong's son, and decided to stop for gasoline at a Petron station.

They were not aware that Campos was also at the gas station. When Bartolata went into the station's grocery, he was spotted by Campos who followed him into the store.

Warning

Bartolata said Campos grabbed him and started punching him in the body while asking where Ong and her two children could be found.

Bartolata said Campos also threatened him with further harm and told him to tell Ong "to watch out."

The Isafp agent, who was at the wheel of the van, saw the commotion and approached Campos and Bartolata whose shirt had been ripped off this time.

Seeing the agent, Campos declared he was a police colonel and demanded who he was. The agent said he was serving as "security" for Rosebud.

"You must be Isafp," Campos reportedly barked, but the agent did not respond. He and Bartolata then left the gas station.

Bartolata was set to meet a lawyer yesterday afternoon to file charges against Campos.

Economy doing better this year, says Palace

MALACAÑANG expects the economy to be able to meet higher growth targets this year with the 3.01 percent growth achieved in agriculture in the first half of the year.

Because of agriculture's very robust showing, GNP (gross national product) targets this year would be on the high side, estimated at 3.3 to 3.8 percent, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a news briefing yesterday.

Tiglao said the agriculture sector's first half growth rate was a "major jump" from the 1.34 percent growth for the same period last year.

He said agriculture's positive performance was good news for the economy, pointing out that agriculture accounts for about a fourth of the country's GNP.

Tiglao said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor announced the agriculture figures during yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

He also said that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be convening for the first time today the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council, composed of the Cabinet and congressional leaders.

The Ledac members will be briefed on the economic situation, the President's proposed national budget, as well as her legislative agenda for the year.

In a report distributed to Malacañang reporters, the agriculture department said the expansion was noted in all agriculture sub-sectors such as fisheries, crops and livestock.

The biggest gainer was fisheries which posted a "decade-high" 4.61 percent output increase this year, amounting to an estimated P287.4 billion in gross production value. Unfortunately, this increase did not translate into higher gross returns and was in fact .89 percent lower than last year's.

The report said the crops sub-sector posted an increase of 1.83 percent but fared badly in terms of gross value which, at P150.3 billion at current prices, lost 7.44 percent this year.

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AFP launches search for kidnapped Chinese

COTABATO CITY—The military launched search operations yesterday for three Chinese and a Filipino abducted while negotiating the freedom of a kidnapped Chinese engineer in Mindanao.

All four are believed to be held by renegade members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's main Muslim insurgent force which signed a truce with the government last week, military officials said.

"The military has launched massive pursuit operations against the suspected kidnappers," said Major Julieto Ando, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division based in the island of Mindanao.

The abduction, which occurred on Sunday and was reported a day later, is the latest kidnapping incident to hit the south, reeling from decades of separatist Muslim rebellion.

The Muslim guerrilla group, the Abu Sayyaf, has been holding 18 captives, including two US nationals, for months on the southern island of Basilan, where about 5,000 government troops are involved in search and rescue operations.

Ando said floods caused by a heavy downpour over the last few days as well as an ongoing ceasefire with the MILF were hampering the search in North Cotabato.

He said the kidnappers were hiding in areas where the MILF operated from, but did not say the group had a hand in the abductions.

The military had asked the MILF to help in the search for the victims believed kept in a vast marshland.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said late Monday that his group was checking on the latest abduction, stressing that they were not involved.

The three Chinese men and a Filipino guide had gone to pay a P5-million ransom for a Chinese engineer snatched by the same group in June, Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said.

He identified the four kidnap victims as Zang Zong Yee, Wang Shung Li and Zho Zhing from China, and Filipino Edwin Lim.

The kidnapped engineer, Zang Zong Quiang, was the executive director of China Import Export Technologies Inc., a subcontractor for a major irrigation project in the area.

When contacted, a Chinese Embassy spokesperson in Manila declined comment, saying they were still verifying reports on the kidnapping.

The military meanwhile was providing security to other Chinese nationals working on the government irrigation project.

"We have provided security to the Chinese workers and warned them against exposing themselves to much outside of their working area because of the threats of abduction," Ando said.

The gunmen, through a video tape released to the local press here last month, originally demanded four million dollars from the subcontractor and threatened to behead the captive if the money was not paid.

The engineer appeared on the tape, looking haggard and tired as he was surrounded by about 15 heavily armed men. *AFP*

RP wants more Iraqi oil-for-food share

THE PHILIPPINES will seek greater participation in a United Nations-sanctioned oil-for-food program in Iraq, the foreign office here said yesterday.

This will be among the topics tabled for discussion between Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and visiting Iraqi Minister for Housing and Building Maan Abadallah Sarsam on Wednesday, the office said.

Sarsam, who heads a large Iraqi delegation, left Baghdad early Tuesday and his visit is aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation between both states, it added.

Iraq suffered heavily from an economic embargo imposed by the UN following the Gulf war in 1990. The sanctions have since been partially lifted by allowing Iraq to export oil in order to buy food and other humanitarian requirements.

The Philippines participated in the program only recently, when a local firm was allowed to export some $2.4 million worth of agricultural equipment for irrigation systems in Iraq, the foreign office said.

But local oil companies have also expressed interest to participate in the program by importing Iraqi oil which the foreign office said was being sold a dollar less than the prevailing world crude rate. *AFP*

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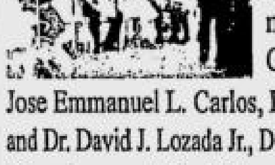
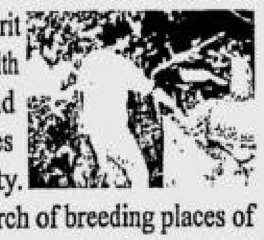


The Department of Health (DOH) is really serious in fighting the deadly Dengue. In order to ensure that no Aedes Egypti adult mosquito will live, a massive larvae hunt was initiated at Valenzuela City. In a joint effort with the Valenzuela City Mayor Jose Emmanuel L. Carlos, DOH Sec. Manuel Dayrit and Dr. David J. Lozada Jr., Director of Center for Health Development for Metro Manila, a search and destroy operation on mosquito breeding places was done in Brgy. Marulas, Valenzuela City.



Sec. Dayrit visited houses in Valenzuela in search of breeding places of mosquitoes. They were able to find groups of larvae swimming in coconut shells, tires, water containers, empty bottles, flower vases and aquariums not being used by the residents. After the search for the breeding places, the Secretary's group started the clean-up drive in the said barangay. With stick broom, Sec. Dayrit began cleaning the surroundings of the barangay, destroying the breeding places of mosquitoes.

The Valenzuela search and destroy operation for the Dengue mosquito is just the start of the DOH fight against Dengue. The Sec. is confident that with the joint effort of the government, the non-government organizations and the community as well, the fight against Dengue can be won.

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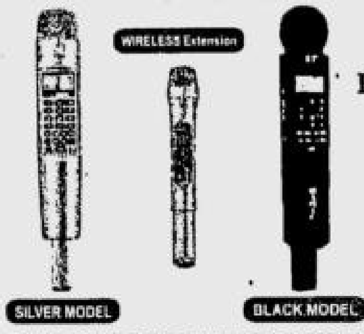

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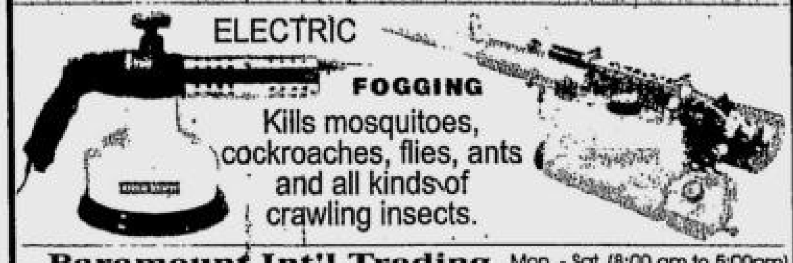

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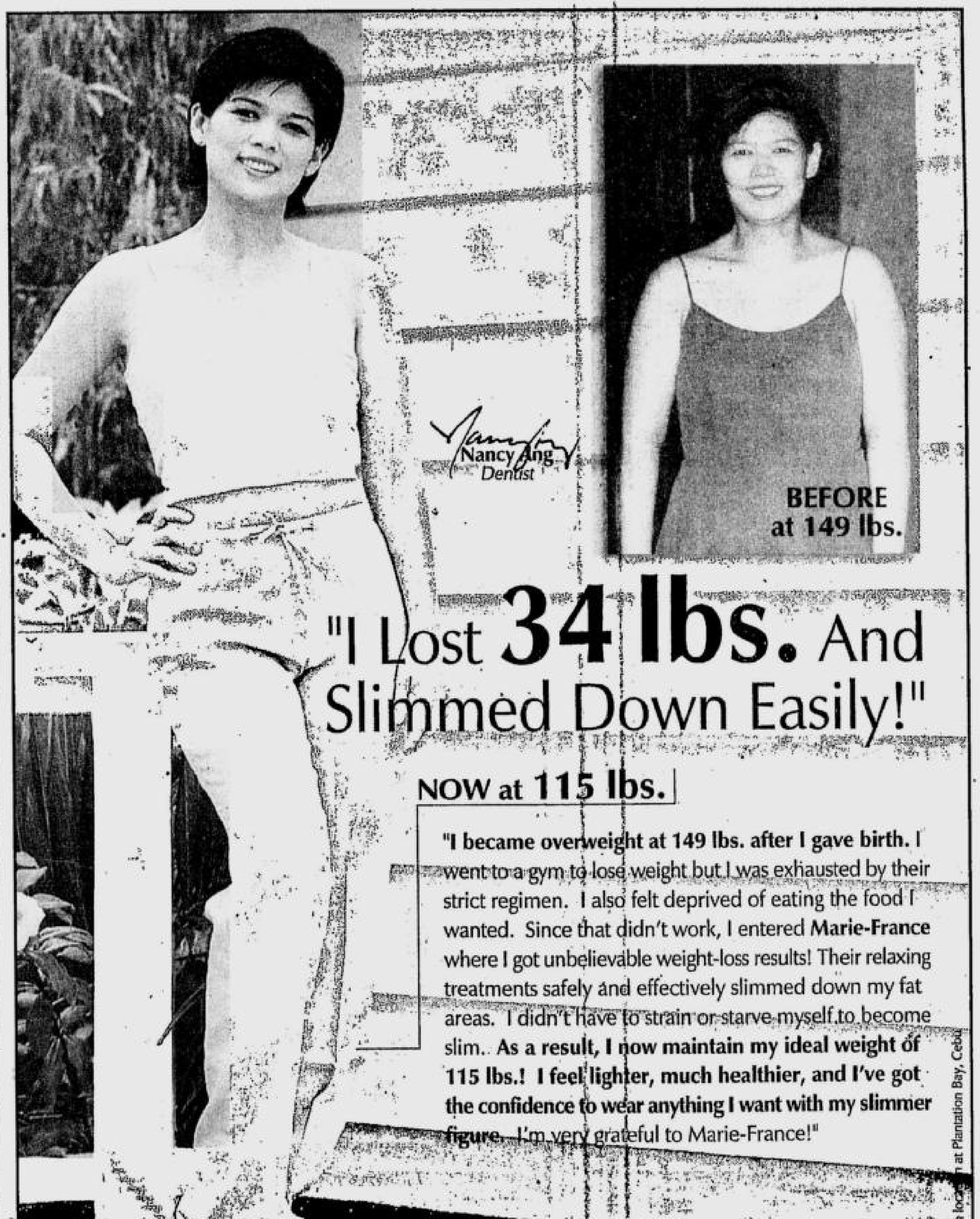

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Clinton nemesis is MJ's lawyer

By Cathy C. Cañares

MANILA Rep. Mark Jimenez has hired American lawyer Kenneth Starr to represent him in plea bargain negotiations with the US government.

Lawyer Mario Bautista, who represents Jimenez in the Philippines, confirmed this yesterday during oral arguments before the Supreme Court on whether his client should be allowed to post bail in Manila while still the subject of an extradition proceeding.

Jimenez is wanted in the US for conspiracy to commit fraud, mail fraud, tax evasion, issuing false statements to the government and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

Starr gained prominence in the US after acting as lead prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former US President Bill Clinton.

Manila Judge Guillermo Purganan allowed Jimenez to post a P1-million bail while a petition filed by the Department of Justice to bring him back to the US remains pending in the judge's sala.

It appears that Jimenez's move to hire Starr has not yet been officially relayed until now to the Department of Justice, the government office in charge of extraditing the neophyte congressman.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez admitted learning that Jimenez had hired Starr in the US only from a source who attended his bail hearings in Purganan's sala.

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez, the DOJ's principal representative in the extradition case against Jimenez, said the government knows of the congressman's move to hire Starr "but not all the details."

Bautista, during oral arguments, said Starr had written the US State Department on June 20 saying Jimenez will voluntarily surrender to the US government on certain conditions.

Jimenez asked that the US government agree to suspend the extradition proceedings in Manila and the application for an arrest warrant against him.

Bautista added that the letter to the US State Department also indicated Jimenez's willingness to return to the US on July 28, five days after he was to attend the President's State of the Nation Address before Congress.

Bautista said Starr eventually received a reply from a certain Michael Savage.

Bautista said Savage reiterated the US government's position that Jimenez be "immediately detained and deported" to the US.

Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban asked whether these developments would mean that the extradition proceedings in the Philippines would soon be irrelevant.

Bautista replied that Jimenez's efforts to plea bargain with the US State Department still continue.

Panganiban then asked if the plea bargain efforts would mean Jimenez will soon drop a motion to quash the government's extradition efforts.

Bautista said he is not sure whether Jimenez is entitled to bail in the US. Bautista pointed out that the US government still considers his client a fugitive from the law.

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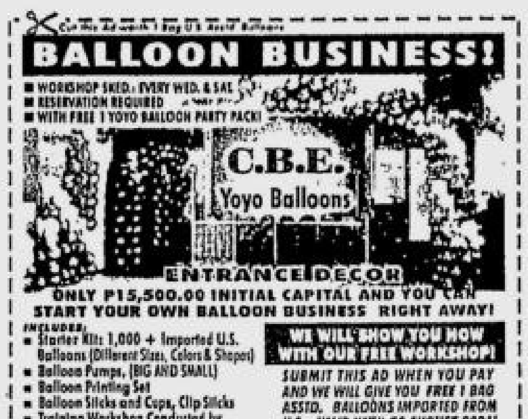

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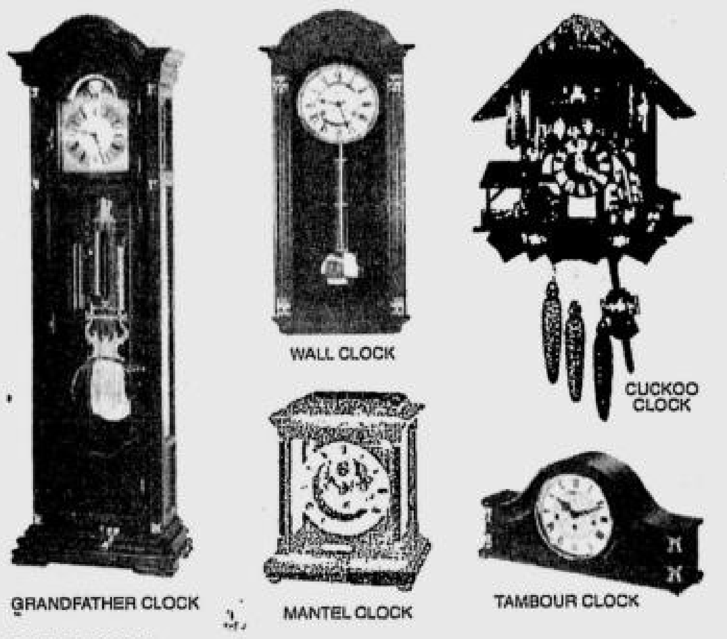

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Clergy seeks probe of Nacorda exposé

By Norman Bordadora
Christine Avendaño
and Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE CATHOLIC clergy of Zamboanga and Basilan yesterday expressed support for Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, urging Congress to investigate his allegations of connivance between the military and the Abu Sayyaf it is pursuing in the Basilan hostage crisis.

In separate statements, the prelature of Isabela, Basilan and Ipil, Zamboanga both called for an impartial hearing and speedy investigation of Nacorda's claim that some military officers had allowed Abu Sayyaf terrorists to escape the military cordon in Basilan in exchange for money.

"As a kidnap victim himself and longtime parish priest in Basilan, Fr. Nacorda's testimony cannot be summarily brushed aside," said the Ipil prelature's statement signed by Bishop Antonio Ledesma and nine other priests.

Knowing and true

They stressed that Nacorda did not call into question the integrity of the entire military establishment, but only certain officers during the most critical moments of the Lamitan crisis.

"On face value, his words should be taken as coming from a witness who is both *sciens et verax* (knowing and true)," they said.

Fr. Martin Jumoad, diocesan administrator of the prelature of Isabela, challenged congressmen and senators to give their attention to Nacorda's accusations.

But he expressed concern about what Congress would do with the information it gathers and if it would bring the matter to the courts.

The first order of business in the now reorganized Senate is the investigation of Nacorda's claims, resulting in the possible delay of the inquiry into charges that Sen. Panfilo Lacson's had allegedly laundered millions of ill-gotten dollars abroad.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate national defense and security committee, said he would start on Monday the inquiry into Nacorda's allegations and would call the priest and other civilian witnesses.

Magsaysay said he has asked blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo to defer for a "few days" holding public hearings on the Lacson case as most of the members in the latter committee also belong to the national defense and security committee.

Urgent probe

The senator said there was an urgent need to tackle Nacorda's allegations first "because it involves lives."

Arroyo said it was possible that public hearings of the blue ribbon committee would begin toward the end of the month.

In a privilege speech yesterday, Sen. Blas Ople said his resolution also sought for the Senate inquiry to hold on-site public hearings in the affected areas—Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City.

Magsaysay said, however, that he was "inclined" to have the first two hearings in the Senate premises.

Magsaysay also said he would ask Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to send a team of agents from the National Bureau of Investigation to secure Nacorda and the other witnesses.

He also said he had invited Rep. Butch Pichay, his counterpart at the House, to join the Senate inquiry on Monday.

The military officials accused of conspiring with the Abu Sayyaf will be called to give their side in subsequent hearings, the senator said.

"We don't want them (witnesses and military officials) to be mixed together because there might be some sensitivity and complexities and we want everyone to have each day in court, in the public hearing, I mean," Magsaysay said.

Also to be invited are Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, among others.

Laughingstock

Ople called for the resignation of the military generals in charge of the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf—Villanueva and Reyes—for their failure to crush the group.

He said the country's military generals have become the "laughingstock in the war colleges of Western Europe and the world."

He said a Senate inquiry should also be made on reports of human rights violations by the military in the areas of conflict.

In Lamitan, Nacorda said yesterday he has been receiving death threats and that witnesses were being harassed by the military.

He said a soldier from the 18th Infantry Battalion had advised him not to go out as "someone might shoot me."

He said several witnesses have been harassed.

Eligio Cordero and his brother Paterno, both members of the Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO), were allegedly ordered to report to the 18th IB headquarters after they supported Nacorda's allegations.

The Corderos said a military officer, whom they refused to identify, ordered them to turn over their firearms. ***With a report from Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 15, 2001
Assumption of Mary

1st Reading:	**Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10**
2nd Reading:	**1 Cor 15:20-27**
Gospel:	**Lk 1:39-56**

Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with holy spirit, and giving a loud cry, said, "You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!"

And Mary said:
"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exults in God my savior!
He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness, and people forever will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me, Holy is his Name!
From age to age his mercy extends to those who live in his presence.
He has acted with power and done wonders, and scattered the proud with their plans.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up those who are down trodden.
He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.
He held out his hand to Israel, his servant, for he remembered his mercy, even as he promised our fathers, Abraham and his descendants forever."
Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Commentary

Today's reading conveys the immense joy that faith has brought into the lives of people who believe. The church chose this reading to celebrate the occasion of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Heaven is the celebration of eternal life by people who believe in God and accept Him unconditionally. It starts here on earth and continues after death. The words of Jesus, "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life" (John 6:47) were fulfilled in Mary. Mary stands here as a model for what happens when people come to believe. Our notion of believing and eternal life are still very partial and fallible. We need trailblazers to show us the way. Because of her faith Mary is in a position to serve as our guide.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the wonderful example of faith you have given us in Mary. Grant that we honor her always as our mother and imitate her faith.

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‘Do I poison him or do I shoot him?’

(From page A1)

get rid of the “rich guy” was just a week before Hancock died. Teodoro said Porteous had visited him in the Philippines at the time.

Australian newspapers reported that Teodoro, a businessman, testified that Porteous even took off her clothes and showed him a briefcase full of money as she asked him if he knew any hired killer in Australia.

Teodoro said he refused to help his ex-wife.

Hancock, 82, died on March 27, 1992 from heart disease and lung and kidney failure after a long illness.

Five months later, his widow Rose married Willie Porteous.

Hancock’s daughter, Gina Rinehart, is attempting to prove that Ms Porteous played a major role in her father’s death by stressing him out.

Rinehart had paid Teodoro $125,000 to fly from the Philippines and testify in Australia. The money was supposedly for his security. Teodoro had described Porteous as a dangerous woman who would not hesitate to hire someone to knock him off to prevent him from testifying in a future trial.

Under cross-examination yesterday, Teodoro stood pat on his testimony on Monday that Porteous wanted to contract a killer to kill Hancock.

But Teodoro admitted that his mother had asked Porteous for $41,000 during their meeting in the Philippines the week before Hancock died, the online edition of the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

Porteous’ lawyer said Teodoro’s mother needed the money to cover the cost of the 1986 trial of Teodoro’s son who was charged for stealing a ring from the Hancocks.

The Daily Telegraph reported that Teodoro told the inquest on Monday that he married Rose in 1971 and they had a daughter before they separated a year later.

He met Rose again in the Philippines shortly after she married Hancock in 1985.

During this meeting she supposedly asked him: “Now that I’m married to this wealthy guy, how do I get rid of him? What can I do about it? Do I poison him or do I shoot him?”

Teodoro said he ignored his ex-wife’s questions.

The Daily Telegraph said that Teodoro testified that on March 20, 1992, Rose (still married to Hancock then) visited him in the Philippines. She was with Willie Porteous.

Teodoro said she told him in Filipino that Willie was going to be her next husband.

Teodoro said Ms Porteous told him she wanted to speak to him alone so they went to his bedroom.

There she supposedly told him: “I’ve tried everything. I’ve harassed and badgered him. What else can I do? How do we go about it? Do we poison him or do we shoot him?”

Teodoro told her he did not want to get involved.

She asked him if he knew any contract killers in Australia. Teodoro said he did not.

Then, he said, Ms Porteous started to take off her clothes and asked him, “Don’t you want me?”

She supposedly showed him a briefcase filled with US dollars and told him, “Look, we have no more problems.”

Teodoro said he told her: “We are finished. It’s over between us. There are no feelings.”

She then threatened that if he refused to live with her again, she was going to marry Willie Porteous.

A week later, Hancock died. And Willie and Rose got married five months after.

According to The Australian, security was tight in the courthouse when Teodoro testified.

Teodoro, who Australian newspapers said was a former Muslim rebel during the Marcos regime, had told the inquest that he had his own private army in the South. But he said he needed the $125,000 given him by Hancock’s daughter for his security when he goes elsewhere.

He told the court that Ms Porteous was violent and that before they married, she had tried to stab him in the back but his bodyguards had stopped her.

He also claimed that after they were married, she hit him in the head with a beer bottle. *With a report from AFP*

Numerous woes dim local movies’ glow

(From page A1)

pete. Of late, our box office has been dominated by such “monster” hits as “Mission Impossible 2,” “Pearl Harbor,” “The Mummy Returns,” “Gladiator,” and “Lara Croft: Tomb Raider,” while there have been only a couple of local hits.

Increasing cost of production. Ten years ago, a small film could be made for P3 million. Today, that figure has doubled, due to the higher rates being charged for raw materials, equipment, printing, processing and post production. In addition, the publicity and promo budget has gone up from P1 million to P3 million.

Film piracy. This has become very rampant, and it is estimated that producers currently lose one-third of their potential income to film pirates who sell bootleg copies of the movies for a fraction of their standard price.

Other factors that producers have to contend with include stars’ steep talent fees, and the difficulty of getting good theaters and playdates.

Shifting allegiance

What about the moviegoer who used to watch Filipino films but now views mostly Hollywood movies? Why did he change allegiance from local to foreign?

For years, he put up with formula films, with predictable stories and standard film formats, stars playing pretty much the same role from movie to movie.

These trite and tattered film formulas include romantic melodramas, tearjerkers, “triangle” dramas, revenge themes in action films, convoluted plot progressions, silly teen romps, gimmick-oriented comedy flicks and happy endings.

They have become so predictable from overuse that moviegoers can practically predict how a particular film type will develop its story, from scene to scene.

Fernando Poe Jr. has practically patented his “peaceful man who goes on the vengeance trail when pushed to the limit” screen persona. Robin Padilla has his “bad boy” image to live up (or down) to in most of his screen outings. Nora Aunor is the perpetual victim. Maricel Soriano likes playing “fighters” in one form or another.

But the viewer has now become more demanding and less easy to please because ticket prices have gone up, from a few pesos decades ago to as much as P120 today, so he has to be more selective about the movies he sees.

Also, some Filipinos work abroad, where they’re exposed to better entertainment fare. When they come home, they find it harder putting up with sloppy local productions.

Other viewers now have access to cable television. Without having to go abroad, they too are exposed to international productions, hence their heightened expectations when it comes to the films they see, which some local movies fail to rise up to.

Popular cineplexes

The increasing popularity of mall-based cineplexes has also altered local viewing patterns and preferences. While some cineplexes screen local movies, most of their theaters showcase foreign films, enabling Hollywood imports to increase their advantage.

Yet another problem is the insufficiency of government incentives for local productions. While government officials piously intone that movies are an important influence on the nation’s life, many of them don’t really believe what they say and still regard movies as both a luxury and a trivial pursuit.

That’s why they don’t offer much by way of incentives for local productions, to make up for the inordinately high taxes that Filipino movie producers have to pay.

Years ago, there were more subsidies and incentives than are available now. There was the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines, which produced some worthy films like “Oro, Plata, Mata,” “Misteryo sa Tuwa” and “Soltero.”

There was the Film Fund, which loaned production money to promising film projects.

There was the Film Ratings Board, which gave substantial amusement-tax rebates to outstanding productions. The FRB is still around, but its influence has been hamstrung by the fact that some Metro Manila mayors don’t give the rebates required. Still, less is better than nothing at all.

Other incentives that do exist include grants given by the Cinema Committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. However, most of those grants go, not to mainstream movies, but to smaller and shorter productions.

The Film Development Foundation of the Philippines encourages the production of better movies with its screenwriting workshop and nationwide screenwriting competition.

Also, its International Film Festival Committee helps fund the participation of outstanding Filipino films in prestigious filmfests abroad.

Increased potential

This exposes some of our best movies to buyers overseas, thus increasing their earning potential. Some sexy dramas like “Burlesk King” and “Sibak” have been screened in New York and San Francisco in the US, in Germany and in Tokyo.

Others have made it to TV screens abroad, like “Goodbye, America” and “Madrasta.” Asian countries have been buying Filipino movies for showing on their TV screens. And, later this year, GMA Films’ “Jose Rizal” will be screened in a big theater in Tokyo, Japan.

This is one way to solve the problem of the limited domestic market for our movies—which limits their production budgets, thus making it difficult for them in turn to come up with the production values they need to have in order to compete with Hollywood imports for local viewers’ attention and patronage.

Interconnected woes

The local movie industry’s woes are particularly difficult to alleviate because they’re so interconnected. Most solutions arrived at thus far are piecemeal, so they don’t make much of a dent on the industry’s veritable spider’s web of problems.

For instance, local film festivals are put up to generate greater awareness of good Filipino films, but some of those filmfests’ worthy goals are subverted by the profit motive. Producers out to make the biggest profit possible soon turn filmfests into showcases for commercial films, rather than for quality productions.

The industry’s moves against excessive censorship are another example. While some film people fight against censorship, others undermine the industry’s image and intentions in the public’s perception by churning out exploitative sex flicks that make the public fear that the industry as a whole is not responsible enough to function without strict censorship.

The movie industry should be more organized and consistent in its fight against unenlightened censorship because it is one reason why some Filipino movies are so predictable and trite. They explain why censorship banks filmmakers’ creative fires and promotes the overly cautious attitude of self-censorship.

Local films that were heavily censored or completely disallowed for screening include Lino Brocka’s “Orapronobis” and “Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim.”

Also, censorship is often subjective and inconsistent, and is perceived to give preferential treatment to foreign films. Thus, local filmmakers don’t know whether they’re coming or going, so they’re unable to do their best work.

Sexy quickies

All of these negative factors have conspired to dim the stellar glow of local movies for the past several years. Producers have tried to fight back with sexy quickies, but the public has gotten tired even of those pneumatic productions.

A few producers have tried to counter the current slump more creatively, with films that have fresh concepts, styles and stellar combinations. A number of them have done well at the tills, so hopes are high that, if it rethinks itself, the Filipino movie industry can still bounce back.

A prime example of such alternative moves is the unlikely pairing of Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez in “Kailangan Ko’y Ikaw,” where for the first time in his career Padilla dared to play a non-action role. The audience found the shift refreshing, and the film ended up as one of the few local hits last year.

In other directions, the filming of such “uncommercial” movies like “Jose Rizal,” “Tanging Yaman” and “Muro-Ami” has surprised some film veterans because “quality” movies are not supposed to make money in these parts, and yet those films were major blockbusters.

Increasingly, however, it’s becoming clear that the local movie industry can’t do it alone. All sectors have to pitch in to turn the tide—filmmakers, moviegoers, the government, everybody—and working together, not fighting each other, as these sectors have done all too often in the past.

For instance, the government’s MTRCB accuses producers of being irresponsible and churning out exploitative film products. In turn, film people accuse government of being overly strict and inconsistent, and not really caring about the industry’s many problems. As for the viewing public, it is often stingy in its support for good local films. Everybody keeps blaming everybody else. Meanwhile, the situation continues to deteriorate. *To be concluded*

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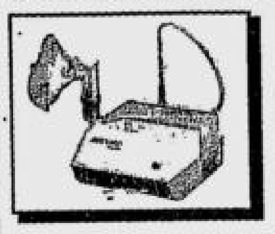
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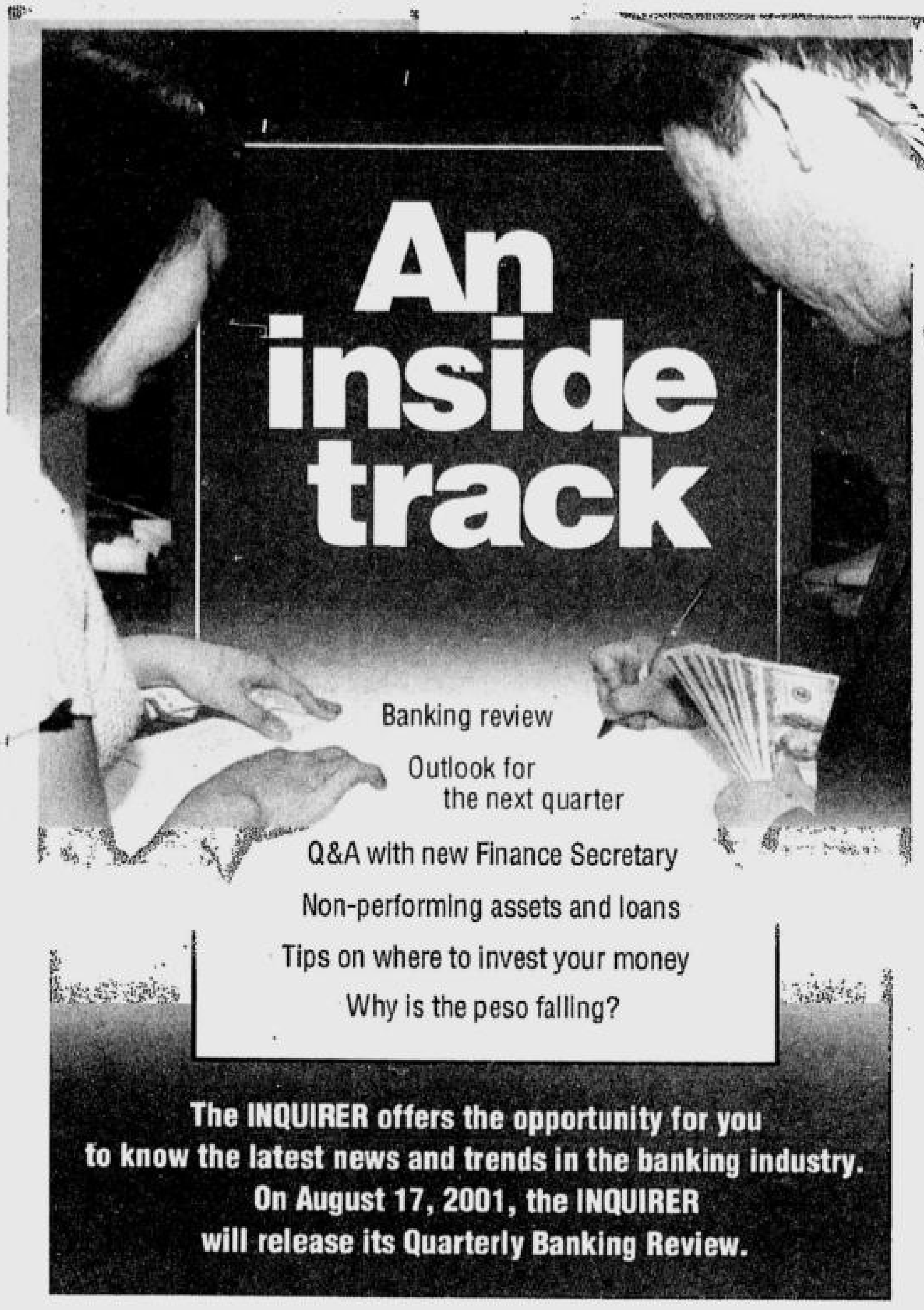

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Congress plans joint hearings

(From page A1)

Senate President Franklin Drilon proposed joint hearings by the appropriate Senate and House committees to "save time and effort." But he added that Congress will not be "bamboozled" into taking inappropriate action. "We will work on this as fast as we can. But we don't want to be threatened that we do this at a certain date."

"We're pushing for the approval of this bill at the soonest possible time, probably before Sept. 30," Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia said in a statement. The House was "giving the highest political priority to the Anti-Money Laundering bill because, unless it is approved by the Senate and the House, the country will be facing economic sanctions from the committee of 30 nations, led by the United States," he added.

In the Senate, the measure will be handled by the committees on banks and on national defense and justice, both chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Magsaysay said that the joint hearings will begin "middle of next week" and the law passed "way, way before" the end of the year.

Earlier, House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Neptali Gonzales had said that the House committee on banks and financial institutions would "need no more than one week of daily hearings" to issue a final report on the measure.

"Those daily hearings would be equivalent to committee work of almost three months," he said.

Sensitive law

In a news briefing, Drilon asked those espousing the proposed law to "show us proof that the Philippine financial system has been chosen as the center for money laundering." He said he also wanted to find out how the country's laws compare with that of the United States and Switzerland.

He also gave assurances that the Senate would not allow the measure to be "railroaded" or senators be "bamboozled into just passing any kind of law."

"This is a very sensitive law. We have to be very careful that the foreign currency denominated unit accounts will not (be) the cause of an amendment to the Bank Secrecy law," Drilon said.

"We should, in other words, have a balance between the policy of ferreting out laundered money and the policy of providing secrecy to our deposits to strengthen our financial system."

Paris watchdog

Last June, the 29-nation Financial Action Task Force, a Paris-based anti-money laundering watchdog, listed the Philippines as one of 15 non-cooperative countries and territories (or NCCTs) which had made inadequate progress to fight money laundering."

It warned that it may impose measures against Manila, including enhanced surveillance and "other relevant actions" unless the government enacted "significant legislation which addresses identified money laundering concerns."

Last week, Central Bank chief Rafael Buenaventura disclosed that pressure on local banks started to spike up in June when US-based First Union Bank of Delaware informed 12 local banks, including the country's largest, the Bank of the Philippine Islands, that it would impose more stringent requirements in processing transactions while the country remained on the laundering list.

Buenaventura added that other foreign correspondent banks have followed Delaware's lead and local banks are now feeling the pinch.

The bills in Congress seek to amend the country's strict banking secrecy laws that make it extremely difficult for monetary authorities to examine the contents of a bank account or the source of funds.

At least four senators have filed anti-money laundering bills: Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Senators Renato Cayetano, Robert Barbers and Panfilo Lacson.

US pressure

At an anti-money laundering forum for civil society, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said a US government financial agency has also listed the Philippines as among the 15 countries with the most number of "suspicious" banking activities that make it a "haven" for money launderers.

Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice, said the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has warned top financial firms and banks about the Philippines.

He expressed pessimism about the passage of the law before Sept. 30, saying "certain realities in the country's democratic process" would slow the passage of the urgent measure.

He passed the buck to Malacañang. "The challenge is for the executive department to try and negotiate with the FTAF for an extension (of the deadline) to postpone the imposition of sanctions on non-cooperative countries and territories," he told reporters.

"I think if we appeal to (the task force) and show them there's good faith (by sending) strong signals that we intend to pass the law in the soonest possible time given the limitations of our legislative means, then the delay in the sanctions should be forthcoming," he said.

The Philippines ranked second among countries with the most number of "suspicious activities reports" (SARs) from April 1996 to July 15, 2000.

The country posted 566 SARs filed within the period, next only to Russia's 847.

From July 16 to Nov. 30, 2000, Philippine SARs reached 52, 6th highest among the NCCTs.

Two hearings

In a separate news briefing, Magsaysay said that the measure would probably be passed before the end of the year or "way, way before" the yearend.

"We can't make promises because there are at least one or two concerns, primarily bank confidentiality, but we will satisfy the international community but look at the situation of our own banking community," he said.

Magsaysay said that before the Senate goes on recess on Sept. 7, he would like the joint Senate-House committee to hold at least two public hearings on the measure so that the technical working groups of the two chambers would be able to work on it during the recess.

The Senate resumes session on Sept. 23. By then, he said, he hopes a committee report would have been made and passed on second hearing. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

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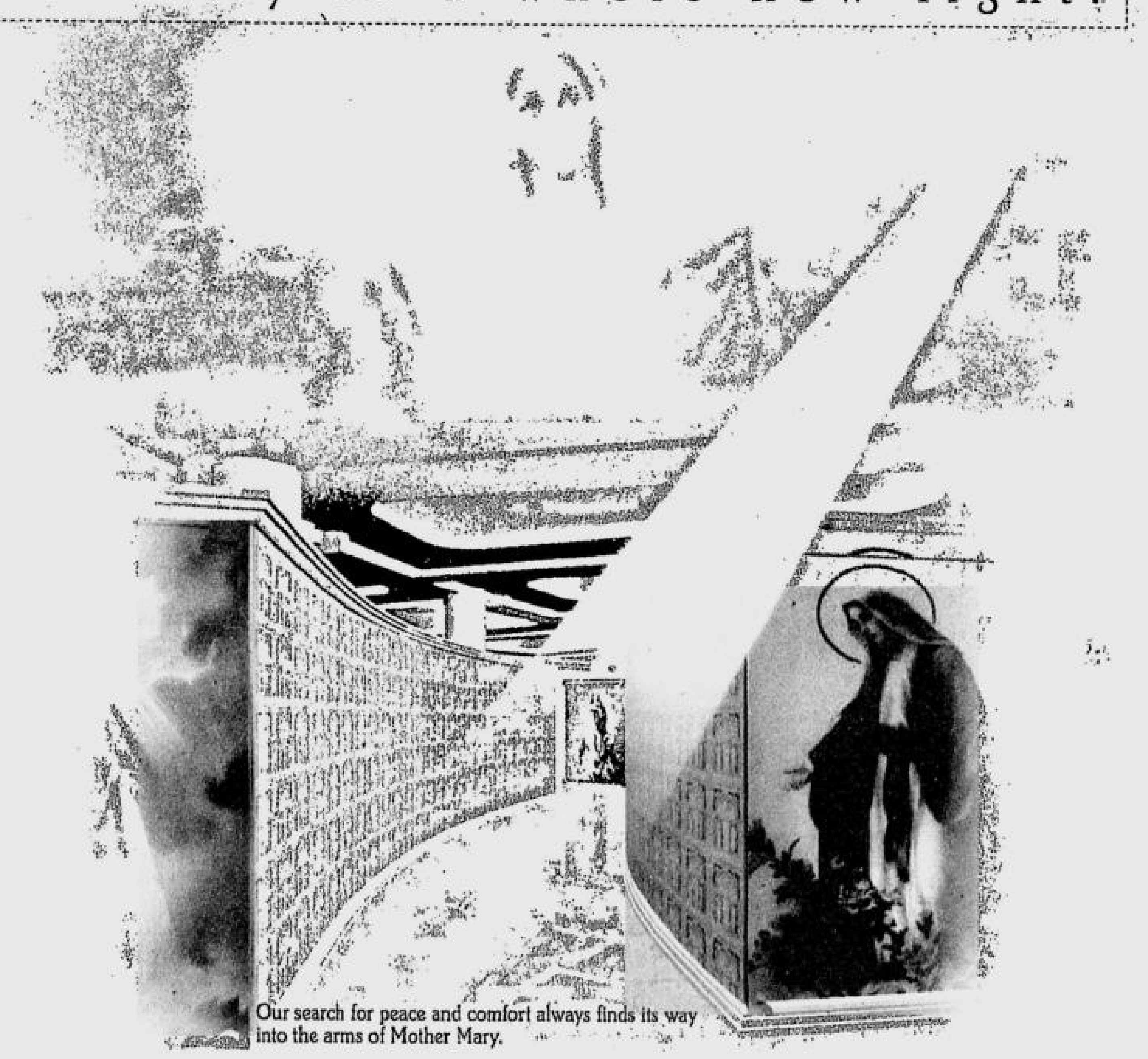

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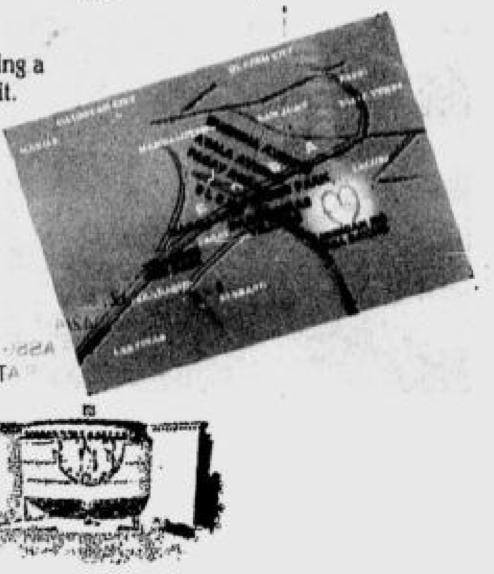

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PDI paper drive . . .

(From page A1)

and solid waste management.

"The response of the public has been encouraging," PDI president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said.

"Although it's a short-term drive, we hope to create a tipping point on solid waste management that will inspire long-term efforts and partnerships with environmental groups such as Linis Ganda," she added.

Institutions that have joined the drive include Petron Corp., Ayala Foundation, Philippine Business for Social Progress, League of Corporate Foundations, United Coconut Planters Bank, Metrobank Foundation, Philippine National Construction Corp., Asian Social Institute, Ali Mall, Philippine National Oil Co., ABS-CBN Foundation, Image Dimensions, Paradigm Clique McCann Erickson Philippines, and GMA Network.

Organizations like the UP Balay International, village associations like the Dasmariñas Village Association, and schools like the University of the East-Caloocan, Adamson University and La Salle Greenhills have also been collecting newspapers and tabloids.

The PDI is buying old newspapers and tabloids at P3 per kilo until Sept. 5.

Fundraising

Other institutions have adopted the drive to raise funds for their projects.

The Archdiocese of Manila, under Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, has mobilized its parishes to raise funds for their outreach and community programs.

Metrobank is likewise soliciting old newspapers in 39 of it branches to support projects of the League of Corporate Foundations, such as the computerization and Internet connection of public schools and various relief and rehabilitation efforts in Mindanao.

Since 1903, the Philippines has lost over 67 percent of its forests, partly due to newsprint production.

Local broadsheets and tabloids consume about 20,000 tons of newsprint every year, and only 5 percent of what they use come from recycled paper.

With less than 6 million hectares of forest land remaining in the country, recycling has become necessary to maximize the use of fresh wood pulp and ensure the sustainability of our forests.

Aside from saving trees, the PDI drive also aims to reduce the amount of waste in garbage dumps.

A report by the Metro Manila Development Authority shows that only 4 percent of garbage in Metro Manila is recycled. Thirty-five percent of the garbage discarded outside the home is also dumped illegally.

Deforestation, coupled by the mismanagement of waste and excessive use of landfills, poses a threat not only to the environment but also to people's health.

"The INQUIRER has always been committed to society. This newspaper drive is our small contribution to a safer and cleaner environment for our people," Prieto-Romualdez said.

Drop-off points

Individuals and groups may drop their old newspapers at the FEP Printing Press loading dock at No. 3817 Mascardo St. behind the INQUIRER building on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati.

Or, they can have them picked up if they have collected a minimum of 200 kilos.

Newspapers will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. For inquiries, call Tel. No. 897-8808 (local 209 or 238).

Those who wish to donate old newspapers for the benefit of various projects of the League of Corporate Foundations, contact the Metrobank Foundation at Tel. No. 898-8855 or 898-8000 (local 2326).

Yes, Virginia . . .

(From page A1)

His request had been denied by a state district court because the name change could have a chilling effect on people who might want to sue Porter but might be hesitant to sue "Santa Claus."

"Porter's proposed name may be thought by some to be unwise," the Utah Supreme Court said in a 3-2 decision after finding he had no fraudulent intent. "However, Porter has the right to select the name by which he is known," it added.

Claus already goes by the name of the character he most admires.

"I have a big bushy white beard," he said, which he bleaches from its natural red. "I have a big tummy and glasses. I look pretty authentic."

He has to bleach his red hair every month to keep it snowy white.

The name change is symbolic for Claus.

Every December, he takes the month off to act as a holiday do-gooder for private parties.

His wife calls him Papa, and his house is full of Santa figurines.

AP

RP maid home today after 2 years in jail

By D.Pazzibugan

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Mary Jane Ramos, who was imprisoned for more than two years in the United Arab Emirates for killing her employer who allegedly tried to rape her, will finally return home tonight.

Ramos, who was only 18 when she was convicted of killing her employer Mohammad Al-Shamsi, is set to arrive 9 p.m. on board Philippine Airlines Flight 661.

She completed her two-year jail term earlier this year, but she was not immediately released since her family could not pay the 150,000 dirhams (P2.1 million) "blood money" required by the court.

According to Antonio Curameng, director of the Department of Foreign Affairs' consular affairs division, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo spearheaded the fund-raising campaign for Ramos.

President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly ordered the release of at least P1 million, while the rest of the amount was raised by the Filipino community in Dubai and Arroyo himself.

"The Filipino community in Dubai through our embassy was also able to raise some of the money, but the main man (behind the fund-raising campaign) was Mike Arroyo," Curameng said.

Ramos was arrested on Feb. 23, 1999, just two days after she arrived in Dubai to work as a domestic helper.

A lower court acquitted her of murder due to lack of evidence.

But an appellate court upheld the appeal of Al-Shamsi's Filipino wife and sentenced Ramos to two years imprisonment and ordered her to pay blood money.

4As lists RP's top ad agencies

McCANN-ERICKSON topped the list of the country's top 20 advertising agencies for the year 2000, according to a listing released recently by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As).

The list was released by the Finance and Standards Authority of the 4As, whose listing was based on audited financial reports submitted by the country's advertising agencies.

The top 20 listing:

1. McCann-Erickson, 2. J. Walter Thompson, 3.Lowe Lintas & Partners, 4. Basic Advertising, 5. Ace/Saatchi & Saatchi, 6. Hemisphere Leo Burnett, 7. Jimenez D'Arcy, 8. DYR-Alcantara, 9. Ogilvy & Mather, 10. Publicis-AMA, 11. DDB Phils., 12 Adformatix, 13. BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, 14. FCB Worldwide, 15. J. Romero & Associates, 16. Image Dimensions, 17. AB Communications, 18. Aspac Advetising, 19. Creative Partners, 20. Great Wall Advertising.

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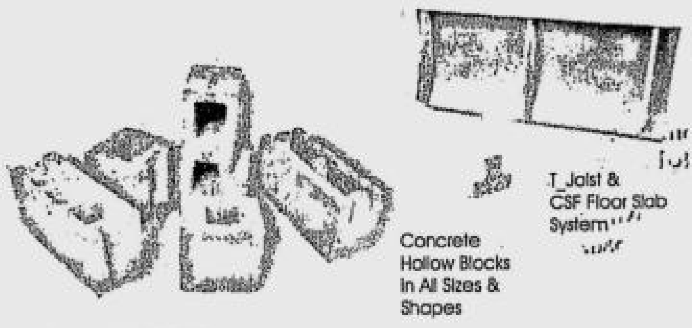

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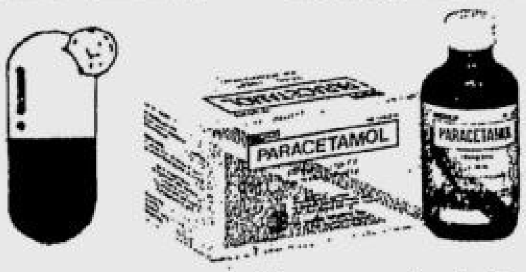

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Amoxicilin Capsule 500 mg	6.00	INH - Syrup 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00
Amoxicilin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Isoniazid Tablet 300 mg	1.50
Ampicilin Capsule 500 mg	7.25	Loperamide HCl Capsule 2 mg	2.75
Ampicilin Powder for Injection 500 mg, vial	35.00	Mefenamic Acid Capsule 250 mg	2.50
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg	1.75	Multi-Vitamin Syrup 60 mL	56.00
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Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	49.00	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	36.50
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Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	75.00
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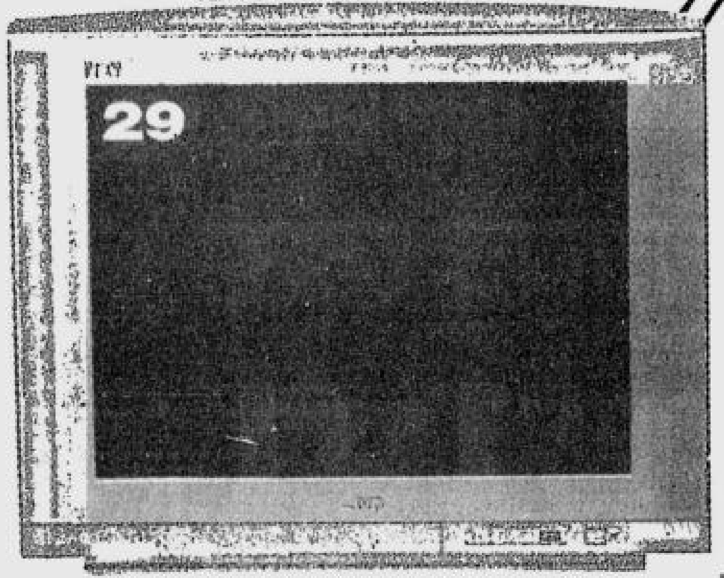

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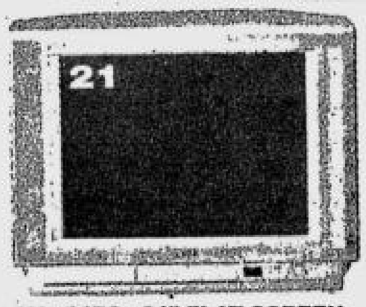

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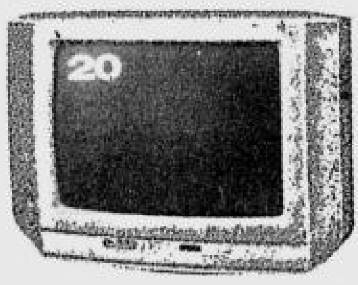

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AV - 14F1P CTV W/ PICTURE BOOSTER
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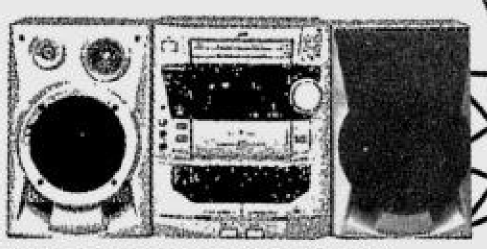

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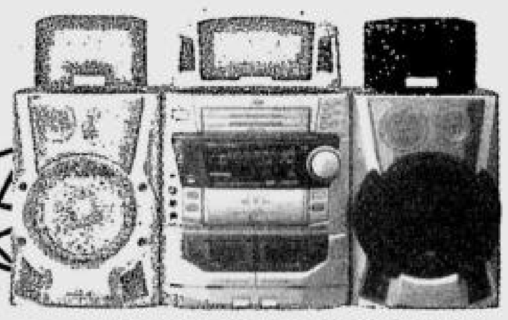

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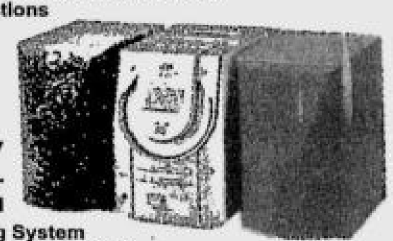

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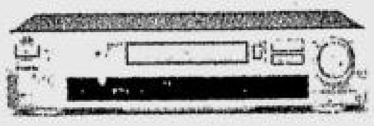

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Bad-year bonanza

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS is everyone's favorite excuse for going on a spending spree. For its "Millennium Day Broadcast" that brought out tens of thousands of people to Ayala Avenue in Makati on New Year's Eve in 1999, GMA television network spent P40 million. A similar extravaganza at the Fort cost much less.

Such expenditures, however, pale in comparison with what the Social Security System splurged that holiday season. According to the Commission on Audit, the SSS incurred P143.3 million in "Christmas expenses" that year. And to think that no one ever heard of any grand celebration in that part of town.

The millennium bash didn't end there for the SSS. Its book of accounts for 2000 carried the same expense item, and this time it amounted to P188.4 million.

Where did all that money go? Only the SSS officials know. The COA report gave no details. Rep. Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao del Norte, who made public the COA report, could only marvel at the extravagance. "The SSS really knows how to throw a party," he said as he called for a congressional investigation.

And what was there for the institution to celebrate? Absolutely nothing, In fact, it was in 1999 when the pension fund reported a loss for the first time in all its 44 years. That year, the COA report said, the premiums collected from members and their employers were P5 billion less than the pensions and other benefits paid out to retirees and other beneficiaries. The shortfall widened further to P7 billion the following year. It was also during those years that the SSS lost about P8 billion from bad investments, according to a report published in Pinoy Times.

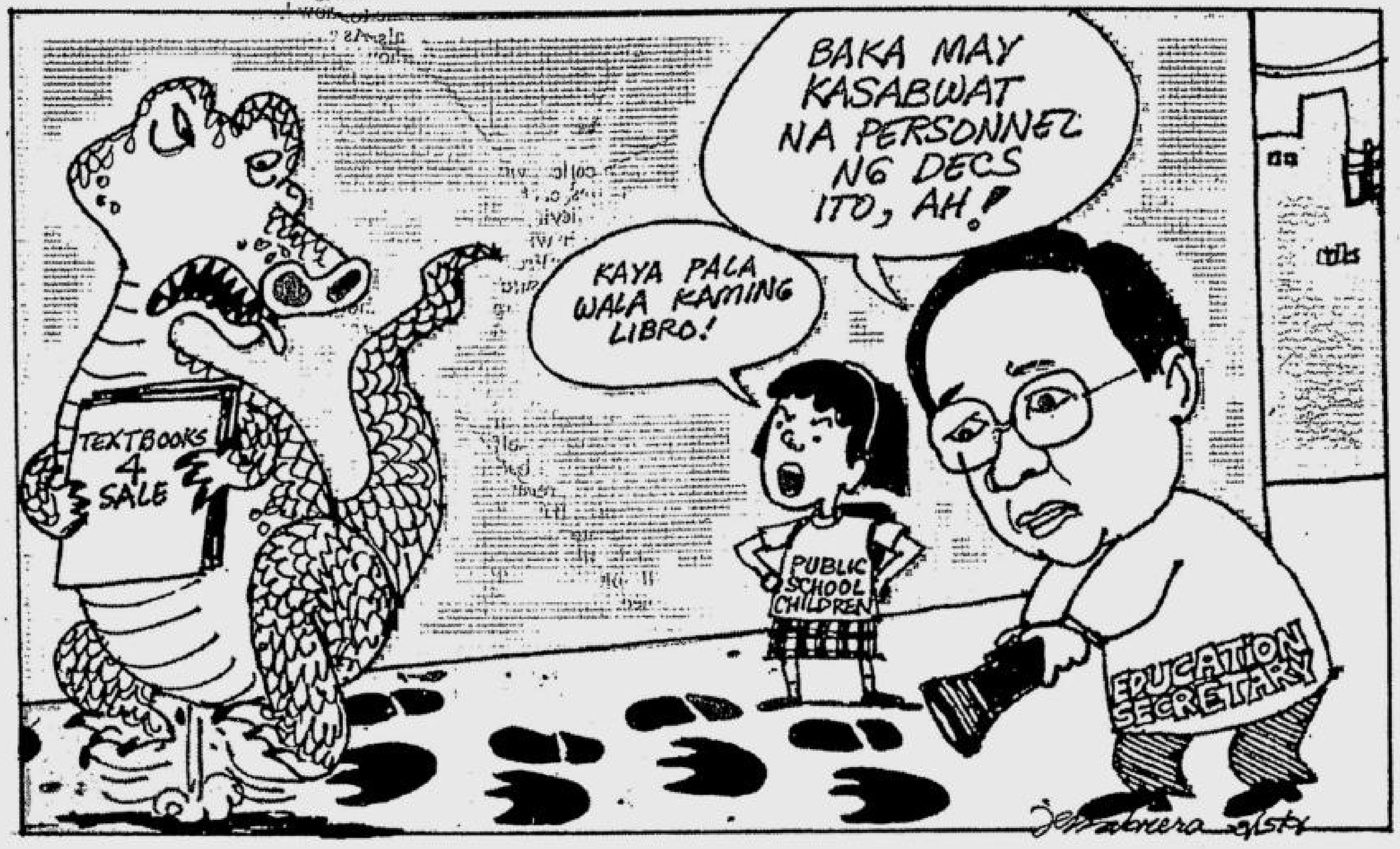
For the SSS officials and employees, however, there was plenty to celebrate. Those very bad years for the institution happened to be among the best years for everyone working in the SSS. And of course, the higher the office the more there was to be happy about. Between September 1998 and May 1999—a period of eight months—the salaries and allowances of SSS executives, including 59 vice presidents, were increased three times. Now the lowest paid assistant vice president takes home close to P120,000 monthly in salary and allowances, while the executive vice president gets P314,416 monthly.

Of course, the goodies had to be spread around, or else the SSS executives would have a revolt in their hands. Thus aside from the salary increases, everyone in the agency was getting bonuses and other incentives. Last year alone, according to the COA report, the bonuses given to officials and employees totaled P235.1 million while the incentives amounted to P211 million.

All these bonuses and incentives, it must be stressed again, were given in the same year when the SSS was losing heavily from bad investments and reporting a huge gap between premiums and benefits. One can imagine the windfall these officials and employees would have gotten if the agency's balance sheet showed a profit. No wonder, Vitaliano Nañagas II, who became SSS president soon after Joseph Estrada was driven out of Malacañang, was saying the SSS would have no money to pay the retirees' pension and other benefits in seven years unless the premiums were adjusted upwards.

No wonder, too, that some senior SSS officials rallied the rank and file to force Nañagas out. He had smelled something fishy in many SSS transactions and he was sniffing out the culprits. Not content with replacing Carlos Arellano, he wanted to make other officials accountable for the many shady transactions that cost the agency billions in losses. For instance, upon Estrada's instructions, the SSS purchased 250 million shares of Belle Corp. for P784 million, allowing Estrada not only to clear P284 million in profits but also to "earn" P189 million in commissions. That deal was approved not only by Arellano but by a group that included the executive vice president, Horacio Templo, and other senior officials. For his pains, Nañagas earned for himself the dubious distinction of having had the shortest tenure as head of the SSS.

And where do the principal stakeholders—the 23 million members and 700,000 retirees—figure in all this? As far as these officials are concerned, they hardly matter. Given a few more years, they would have run the pension fund to bankruptcy, given their inability to say no to the powers that be and their habit of rewarding themselves for their bad judgment and gross incompetence. Too bad, the lowly SSS employees allowed themselves to be used to shield the fat cats whose skills are limited to fattening their own purse.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NHA owes R-II Builders ₱1.8 billion

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I INTERVIEWED, separately, Wilhelm Soriano, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and Reghis Romero II, board chair of R-II Builders Inc. on the P641-million overdue loan proceeds that the OWWA can't collect from R-II Builders. (As I See It, 8/9/01)

The OWWA had invested P450 million in welfare funds in Smokey Mountain Project Participation Certificates (SMPPCs), part of a P2.4-billion asset pool for the construction of housing units on Smokey Mountain and reclamation of the adjacent foreshore area. The investment matured in October last year with a value of P641 million but the OWWA has not been able to get back its investment.

Predictably, Soriano and Romero washed their hands of any responsibility and denied any wrongdoing in the deal that went sour. Soriano said the deal was concluded by his predecessor; he had nothing to do with it. Anyway, there is nothing to worry about as the SMPPCs are guaranteed by the Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC). And it is further backed by the reclaimed land that remains to be sold at the Manila Harbor Center which is pegged at P4.1 billion, much more than the outstanding SMPPC issued to the OWWA.

For his part, Romero in effect exclaimed, "Who me, owe OWWA P641 million? Of course not. On the contrary, it is the government that owes us P1.8 billion. We are the victims, not the culprits."

R-II Builders is neither the borrower of the OWWA nor the issuer of the SMPPCs, Romero said. Therefore, R-II Builders never had a loan from the OWWA.

"The Smokey Mountain Asset Pool issued these investible certificates (which are transferable) to investors of the project," he said. The other investors are the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System and Pag-IBIG. The investments are deposited with the Philippine National Bank (PNB) as trustee. The funds were used by the National Housing Authority to complete the construction of the socialized housing component of the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP). The contractor of that project is R-II Builders.

R-II Builders, Romero said, has completed 33 temporary housing buildings, housing 2,992 Smokey Mountain families, and 21 four- and five-story housing buildings. It has also reclaimed 79 hectares of land, which are all titled to the NHA.

"When we have completed a phase of the project," Romero said, "the NHA issues instructions to the PNB to release the funds for that phase to us." The NHA is supposed to have a counterpart fund equivalent to 25 percent of the asset pool but it has not done that. Because of R-II Builders' commitment to finish the project on time, it advanced P1.8 billion of its own funds to the project. R-II Builders is trying to collect that advance from the NHA.

R-II has repeatedly demanded payment from the NHA since 1997, Romero said. Due to lack of funds to pay for the advances made for the disposal of garbage in Smokey Mountain to complete the project (the 21 permanent housing buildings are complete and ready for occupancy but they cannot be occupied unless the mountains of garbage around them are removed because they may collapse on the residents), the NHA suspended the project in 1998.

And because of the political bickerings and intramurals among the officials of the past administration, the payment scheme for R-II Builders was delayed. The Smokey Mountain Asset Pool therefore cannot service its maturing obligations due to the non-payment of the NHA to R-II Builders of its advances, Romero said.

The NHA, on the other hand, wants R-II to get its unpaid advances from the reclaimed land still unsold and which are in the name of the NHA. With the real estate market depressed, however, it is hard to get good prices for that land.

The OWWA's investment, meanwhile, is backed by the same reclaimed land but its charter prevents it from putting its funds in real estate. So the HGC, which guarantees the SMPPCs, should redeem the certificates issued to the OWWA. The NHA can sell its land to pay both the HGC and the advances made by R-II Builders.

I don't know why they are delaying payments when, with every day's delay, the payments due increases because of the accumulating interest on the investments and the advances. Perhaps their officials are waiting for something?

* * *

GUESS WHO. Name-dropping used to be a crime in previous administrations. But now the game is back with a vengeance. The business community is abuzz with the story about a lady stockbroker who is reportedly bragging that she is very influential with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, saying that whomever she recommends to any government position, especially directors of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), will definitely be appointed by Ms Macapagal. Perhaps the President herself should speak up to make it clear that nobody is influential with her, not even her husband.

* * *

TODAY'S joke: A man and his wife died in an accident and went straight to heaven. There, the wife found him with another woman.

"What are you doing with that woman?" she demanded. "I'm your wife."

"Remember, darling," the man replied, "our marriage vows said 'till death do us part.'"

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Growing up confused

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AT TORRITOS, a Mexican restaurant, in Daly City, a strange thing happened last week. The place, a huge one with cavernous ceilings and sprawling dining rooms, and with the sights and sounds and smells of Mexico assailing you as soon as you enter the door, a brawl took place.

It happened in the other dining room, several meters from where we sat separated from us by a glass wall. Two groups of kids were seated in two tables. One group, about six of them, had a couple of girls with them. The other group was all boys, about as many as the first group. There were other boys hanging outside the restaurant, who were friends of one of the groups—I don't know which. What happened, according to some of the people who sat on that side of the room, eating their tacos and fajitas and happily telling stories before it happened, was this:

One of the kids in the first table walked up to a kid in the second table and asked him, "What the f— are you looking at?" Undaunted, the kid at the other table replied in kind, giving him to know what he might do with himself. The four letter words flew and rose in volume, while their companions chimed in. Dirty fingers rose in the air. At one point, one of the kids, flushed with anger and whatever chemicals his bloodstream carried, broke a bottle of Corona and hurled it at the other group. Some said it hit and cut a kid in the arm, some said it just smashed to pieces on the floor. The other group picked up their chairs and threw it right back at the group that threw the bottle. The other group retaliated by throwing a table—"it was pretty heavy," one witness would say—at the other group.

It was over in a few minutes, both groups withdrawing in opposite directions before the cops arrived. The cops finally got there after 10 minutes. People complained about their response time, they said it should be seven minutes or less. I said the Philippines has the record for the fastest response time: In the United States, it takes cops seven minutes to get to the scene of the crime, in the Philippines it takes them seven seconds. My companions laughed.

After some investigation, the cops learned that the two groups hung out in the place, and were known to the people there. The manager, whom we presumed was the woman who was rushing to and fro during the brawl, was furious. Nothing like that had happened to the place before, people said. The cops nodded their heads and said nothing like that had happened in the area itself in a long time. The kids who did that must be really crazy. The kids were Filipinos.

Or more accurately, Filipino-Americans, kids born in America to Filipino parents. I had thought during the brawl they might be Mexicans, though they seemed a little smaller and darker than most Mexicans. But the other customers, many of them Filipinos themselves, or Filipino-Americans, were sure of it. They had seen those kids before. They were Fil-Ams.

Some days before, someone had just told me that he wasn't so sure who had the worse time of it, the Filipino kids who had been born and grew up part of their lives in the Philippines before coming—or being brought—to America, or the Filipino the kids who had been born and raised in America. The first of course had a strenuous, sometimes traumatic, time adjusting to American culture, whose levels of extroversion, assertiveness and frankness were often beyond their capacity to cope with. Certainly, their early brushes with it were not easy, and probably produced all sorts of behavior to compensate for it.

But growing up in America wasn't all fun and games either. The kids who did so began life knowing nothing but America and feeling they were every inch part of America. Only to grow up realizing they were a separate entity, the barriers, which were not always active discrimination, but the being made to feel ethnically or culturally "other," being formidable despite being invisible. They spoke the same language as other Americans, they lived and breathed the same things as other Americans, but they were not quite like other Americans. Unfortunately, they were no longer Filipinos either. They knew next to nothing about the Philippines and particularly where their parents left their old country in bitterness and continued to speak of it bitterly, they held their roots at best with scorn (because scorn at least suggests something active) and at worst with indifference (because it mattered to them only as much as did Gabon or Timbuktu).

It was a strange feeling, being in limbo, or quite literally being neither here nor there. Some are able to transcend it, some are able to live with it, some stew in confused disquiet over it. These are not completely distinct and ironclad categories, but flow into each other like water into the sea. Fil-Ams can feel completely integrated one day and out of sync next day. Most are dealing with it in creative ways. A Fil-Am kid, who has been fairly passionate about the Philippines, downloading volumes of materials on it from the Internet, once asked me if I knew the origin of the *barong Tagalog*. I said no. He said, that was a Spanish imposition: The *indios* were forced to wear transparent clothing so they could not hide bolos underneath it. How it became the national costume, the badge of national honor, he said, we may credit to Filipino ingenuity. He took his inspiration from this, he said, his people's ability to turn a bad thing into a good thing.

That is one side of it. There is another. That is the one I saw last week in Torritos in Daly City, a brawl springing from out of nowhere in an oasis of relative quiet, like sin welling up in paradise. It was a reminder of the underbelly of the Filipino dream of America.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Trivializing the Senate

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SEN. Sergio Osmeña III has ended his three-day filibuster after Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar and Majority Leader Loren Legarda deferred taking a second committee chairmanship each. The end of Osmeña III's talkathon—the first filibuster in the 12th Congress—paves the way for the organization of the Senate committees that has been delayed for more than three weeks.

In launching his one-man guerrilla war of words—words being the main output of the Senate so far—Osmeña III slammed the "tyranny" of the majority, and made the point that in previous Senates, the Senate president pro tempore and the majority leader took extra committee chairmanships only with the "unanimous consent" of senators.

On this issue, Osmeña III put his political future on the line by using the senator's power of filibuster to paralyze its organization. His filibuster, with which he held the Senate hostage for several days, may not be the longest in the Senate's history, but it revealed Osmeña III's priorities and the power of an individual senator to put a revolver to the head of the Senate as a body and disrupt its business.

The filibuster is an ultimate weapon at the hands of a senator to use on behalf of profound causes. Osmeña III seems to believe that the issue on extra chairmanships is a profound cause to use the weapon. Many think he trivialized the weapon and therefore wasted its potency to fight abuses by the majority. One cannot be sure whether it is Osmeña III's strong sense of principle or the fact that he could not live with both his cousin, Sen. John Osmeña, and Senate President Franklin Drilon, that prompted him to go on a talking rampage.

Whatever is the reason, it is hard to see how the filibuster would defend the Senate "as an institution," much less help it rehabilitate its damage after its disgraceful vote that locked the second envelope containing documents on deposed President Joseph Estrada's alleged bank accounts during the impeachment trial.

What the filibuster revealed in sharp relief was that the Senate does not work as a collectivity but is made up of 24 individual entities, each of whom has a swollen ego, and each believing he or she is an autonomous seat of power with a national constituency similar to that of the President of the Republic. Thus, with this constituency, senators have come to believe that they are not merely legislators but also rival individual power centers to the presidency and that, if there's any organ from which to mount a bid to the presidency, it should be the Senate.

Osmeña III demonstrated this individual power of the senator to disrupt the Senate itself or block the majority's plans. The present balance of power in the present Senate is precarious. It sits on a margin of just two votes. It is this hairline balance that makes the Senate vulnerable to the disruptive exercise of the filibuster.

The first people that Osmeña III impressed with his filibuster were, of course, the neophyte senators who were introduced to the weaponry available to them to prove that each is an individual power center. Osmeña III acted as their tutor. I'm sure, they will have no problems catching up quickly.

It is also hard to define Osmeña III's position in a Senate split down the middle. He ran for the Senate on the ticket of the People Power Coalition, but during the reorganization of the Senate, he shifted to the opposition. The test of a majority to be able to govern is whether it can hold its ranks and whether it has steadfast allies who can put the concept of a working majority above their narrow particularistic interests. At the rate Osmeña III shuffles his legs, it is not a surprise if his minority colleagues do not trust him completely.

The shifting alliances in the Senate hamper its effort to rebuild the damage it inflicted upon itself in the impeachment vote. Rather than rebuild a ruined institution, members of the Senate are prone-to-show how powerful they are as individuals. As an institution, the House fared better in showing its autonomy than the Senate, although the House has been maligned for being vulnerable to the blandishments of patronage. In contrast to the Senate whose disgraceful vote sparked the Edsa II crisis, the House mustered the majority to impeach Estrada and sent the articles of impeachment to the Senate.

Senators like to believe that the Senate has veto power—especially on foreign policy—and their chamber has a strong tradition of being independent. But one often wonders why this tradition of independence was hardly visible during the past administration, which needed checks and balances from the legislature, and why senators are beating their breasts to proclaim their independence only now.

The Senate today is even in a more disorganized state than the House. Aside from being paralyzed by the filibuster of one man, the Senate is in the vortex of charges leveled against one of its new members, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, for alleged laundering fabulous sums of money in overseas banks.

Seldom in the history of the once venerable body has it come under intense fire as it is today. The charges against Lacson have been percolating in the files of the Isafp months before the last elections and before Col. Victor Corpus, Isafp chief, disclosed them publicly. Lacson's election has put him in a safety zone—the sanctuary of the Senate—where he can use its platform not only as a shield but also as a weapon for offense where he is now free to raise the red herring—the Cold War weapon of Right-wing torturers fighting communist insurgencies.

Unless senators examine themselves carefully to find out what their purpose as legislators is, they may yet find the Senate converted into an arena for a witch-hunt by one of their beleaguered members or as a gymnasium for brandishing their destructive weapons such as the filibuster.

Senadora Loi is no women's champion

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON THE ONE hand, I'm glad the Senate finally resolved the impasse that prevented it from organizing its various committees. Senators Manuel Villar and Loren Legarda-Leviste truly deserve praise for deferring acceptance of second committee chairmanships in the "higher national interest." This, even if their decision would seem to have bolstered Sen. Sergio Osmeña III's filibustering on the issue.

On the other hand, I'm dismayed that the senators, particularly those in the People Power Coalition majority, seem to have put parliamentary unanimity over the interests of their constituents. I'm speaking here particularly of women.

Among the seven senators in the minority who were able to snag committee chairmanships is Sen. Luisa Ejercito Estrada, who now chairs the (don't gag!) Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations. Doktora Loi, need we point out, is the "martyr" wife of the former President who gained a lot of public sympathy, but also scorn, for her stoic acceptance and even defense of her philandering husband's very public indiscretions.

Indeed, among the issues that galvanized public opinion against Erap was his shameless flaunting of his unconventional, to say the least, lifestyle. What got women's groups up in arms, in particular, was his belief, expressed in both word and deed, that women served no greater purpose than men's gratification. He made no apologies for his serial philandering, and even justified the existence of multiple families and relationships by saying that at least he provided for his women's and children's material needs.

What this led to, unfortunately, was the popularization of the notion that women are no better than money-grubbing opportunists, who will sell themselves and barter their children in exchange for a mansion, late-model vehicles and money-making opportunities. So wasn't it divine justice that the mistresses' mansions would be among the issues that sparked public anger at Erap's excesses?

* * *

SO what does all this have to do with the *senadora*?

While she had our sympathies when the scandals were splashed all over the media, the *doktora*, it must be pointed out, was not really an innocent bystander in these nefarious activities. Her name has surfaced in a number of irregularities, including the allegations of million-dollar accounts abroad where a fellow senator, Ping Lacson, is the central figure. She also figures in stories detailing her husband's corrupt operations, particularly in the testimony of Chavit Singson.

The impression thus created is that the *senadora* chose to turn a deaf ear and blind eye to her husband's infidelity because it served her own purposes, exchanging her complicity for profit, if not for herself, then for members of her family.

"Well, she does have first-hand knowledge of women's issues like spousal infidelity," joked a friend when we first heard about this development.

But if a woman couldn't, or wouldn't, recognize abuse even when it was happening in her own marriage, how can she be expected to champion women's rights in the Senate?

What I find most unfortunate is that, once again, it's become obvious that our senators thought the committee on women, youth and family so unimportant and insignificant that no one among the majority thought to fight to chair it. And that they are, collectively, so dim-witted no one recognized the irony in having Senadora Loi speak for the women of this land.

* * *

SPEAKING of another sort of woman altogether, I was at a dinner recently in honor of new SSS administrator Cora dela Paz. Among friends and family hosted by Nandy Pacheco and his wife Priscilla, Cora spoke animatedly of the challenges she faces in this now-controversial GFI, and the changes these entail in her life.

There is, for one, the traffic she must endure daily as she makes her way from her Makati home to the SSS offices in Quezon City. The long commute, she laughs, was one of the reasons she turned down the President's offer to chair the Commission on Audit, a post which would seem to be tailor-made for her as she recently retired as chair of one of the country's biggest auditing firms, Joaquin Cunanan/Price Waterhouse.

"A few days ago," she recounts, "I decided to drive from my home to the SSS building just to see how long it would take and to have a look at the place. The first thing I noticed was that there were so many security guards! But to their credit, they didn't want to let my car in until I identified myself. I then asked my driver to drive me around the compound, and one of the first things I'll have done is to clean up the area behind the main building, which is a mess."

If only because she will bring a housewifely sensibility to her work as SSS head, those contentious employees should welcome Cora's arrival.

* * *

CORA vouches, though, for her predecessor Lani Nañagas' ability and integrity, saying he must have been misunderstood by the workforce. There also seems to have been a deliberate campaign to discredit Nañagas. The employees, for instance, had accused him of spending P1.5 million for the renovation of his office. The real story, says Cora, is that Nañagas had consulted an interior designer about the renovation, but when presented with the plan for P1.5 million, changed his mind precisely because it was too expensive.

"So, how long did your retirement last?" I teased her. "All of one month," she deadpanned, during which, she hastens to add, she was still going to the office every day preparing for the turnover of duties: She and her daughter had planned long trips abroad together, especially since Cristy has spent the last few years in college in Maine, where she is a drama major.

This will be Cora's first full-time government posting. While her husband Pat, who capped his years of government service as head of the Napocor, was alive, she says, he ruled out public service for her, saying: "Don't you dare enter government! If you do, we will all end up starving!"

A limited knowledge of history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AFTER TREATING my sisters to a pig-out buffet lunch in Manila, we decided to burn some calories by walking around the Metropolitan Museum viewing Rachy Cuna's paintings and installations. We went to the basement to gasp at the pre-colonial earthenware and gold of the Central Bank and proceeded to the Central Bank Money Museum in the heart of the Central Bank complex on Roxas Boulevard. Walking past the ruins of Fort San Antonio Abad, I explained that the fort is not part of Intramuros and that it is historically important because in 1898 the Americans, with the agreement of the Spaniards, holed up in Intramuros, staged a mock battle here that led to the surrender of Manila. The Spaniards gave up the city to the Americans and excluded Emilio Aguinaldo and his forces from any participation in the so-called "Fall of Manila" on Aug. 13, 1898, an infamous event once remembered as "*trece de agosto.*"

While they listened intently (maybe I should say politely, because they had just come from my birthday treat!) to my impromptu lecture, it was evident that they had not read any of my books, not even my INQUIRER columns. Everything was new to them, all this unknown history of Manila Bay. All those Manila sunsets captured on tourist photos and postcards obscure the fact that the first shot in the Spanish-American War was fired in this bay—halfway around the world from Washington and Madrid. On May 1, 1898 George Dewey entered Manila Bay, blasted the antiquated Spanish fleet out of the water, and declared his victory, "one of the most remarkable naval battles of the ages." This fact is lost even to Filipinos who still remember the present Roxas Boulevard as "Dewey Boulevard." I cannot decide whether it is better or worse that the so-called 1898 Battle of Manila Bay is forgotten.

With this triumph the United States was no longer the backward *promdi* country looked down upon by old Europe. The Battle of Manila Bay was the debut of the United States as an imperial power. Months later she took Manila and from there began her first colonial experiment. Since our history still has remnants of American bias, generations of Filipinos still do not know that the Battle of Manila Bay was a mismatch and the so-called Fall of Manila, a farce. Thus, it is commendable that from its limited sources the National Historical Institute has published German and French historical sources from the period, enlarging our once limited point of view. "The Diary of a French Officer on the War in the Philippines 1898 by Lt. X," translated from the original French by Marietta Enriquez de la Haye Jousselin and "Germany, the Philippines and the Spanish American War: Four Accounts by Officers of the Imperial German Navy" edited by Karl-Heinz Wionzek, are the latest in a growing number of books on 1898 that contribute to the rewriting of Philippine history—preferably from a Filipino viewpoint.

Manila was scheduled to be taken on Aug. 10, 1898, but bad weather, usual at this time of year, made the Americans postpone the deed till the clouds had cleared. On the humid morning of Aug. 13, 1898, Dewey began the assault of Fort San Antonio Abad. Flags were raised at 9 a.m. and firing commenced half an hour later. Lt. X, an eyewitness on board a French ship, said, "All three ships aiming their shots at Fort San Antonio were missing their target completely. As I watched the continuous firing to the finish, the following words of a Spanish officer ran through my mind: 'All this cannon fire is merely a bluff, and Fort San Antonio would not be threatened if they did not fire at the American troops.'"

American land troops requested the Filipinos to give up their positions, and move from Malate and Singalong toward Intramuros. By 11 a.m. the white flag was hoisted. The Americans took Manila without the Filipinos. Lt. X describes the panic of Manila, the rough manners of the Americans, and generally his tone is sympathetic to the Philippines and the Filipinos. Part of his entry for Aug. 13, 1898 reads: "The final act of this conflict between the Spaniards and the Americans has taken place. It lasted two hours this morning: the simulated attack was met by simulated defense."

Aguinaldo's mistake was trusting the Americans. Lt. X in 1898, already knew this when he said: "Asiatic cunning is not evident in Aguinaldo. He seems to have implicit faith in the ability of the Americans to bring independence to his country, which shows his limited knowledge of history."

A limited knowledge of history is almost the same as total ignorance of history. The diary of Lt. X and the accounts of members of the Imperial German Navy who saw action in Manila fill in gaps and will help us form a clearer picture of that crucial year when the First Philippine Republic was born. It has been three years since the 1998 centennial when I vowed never to tackle the Philippine Revolution again, yet I still find myself fascinated by new materials, reading and analyzing them in order to understand the period and hopefully make sense of the way in which our history developed.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The last frontier

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SITKA, Alaska—Four times the size of Texas, Alaska simply overwhelms the traveler with its vastness and wildlife splendor. As one scientist once observed, you get a sense of your own minuteness and the eternity of the universe.

All this for a measly $7.2 million, which must have been a fortune in 1867. Then US Secretary of State William Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia, was raked over the coals by his colleagues and the American press for purchasing a territory of nothing but ice fields and icebergs. Alaska promptly became known as "Seward's Folly." Little did they know that in time gold would be found and the vast wilderness of nothing would yield magnificent treasures of natural beauty, not to mention oil, to become the nation's "last frontier." Seward's "folly" was actually "Seward's Foresight."

It's like being in a different world up here and you are constantly reminded of it. Alaskans refer to the rest of the continental US as "The Lower 48." I kind of like that. I sense that Alaskans have a special feeling for Hawaii, the only other state that's not geographically connected to the US continent, which we call "the mainland" down there. Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states, respectively, within a month of each other in 1959.

We are now in Sitka, a charming fishing village which was once the capital of Russian America. The name is derived from "Shee-Atika," the expression the native Tlingit Indian inhabitants used to describe themselves before the Russian Empire forced its way into their shores in 1804 in search of fur. For 63 years, Sitka was Russia's major Pacific port of call. It was the headquarters of the Russian American Co., which was the most profitable trading company at the time. If you see those old Russian movies like "War and Peace," with actors wearing heavy fur coats and hats lined with fur, those came from the poor sea otters from Alaska, which had to be hunted down for their precious felt skin. Today, of course, the otters and whales and sea lions and other animals are protected. The salmon in the streams, the bald eagles on tree tops, the sea lions offshore, the cute sea otters and humpback whales each weighing an average of 50,000 pounds are free to frolic in the territory without fear of human predators.

Sitka's population has dwindled down to 9,000, but much of the Russian influence remains. The most prominent landmark is St. Michael's Cathedral, the Russian Orthodox church originally built by Ivan Veniaminov, called Bishop Innocent. It is laid out in the classic style of European cathedrals and the church holds a preeminent position in the Russian Orthodox faith in North America.

In 1799, Alexander Baranof, the Russian American Co. general manager, decided to move his base of business operations from Kodiak to old Sitka, which he baptized the St. Archangel Michael settlement. The indigenous Tlingits did not like this and resisted the Russian intrusion into their native culture. When Baranof was away in 1802, the Tlingits burned the fort and massacred the Russian settlers. But Baranof returned with superior military force and the Tlingits withdrew, so once again, the Russians were in command. In fact, many of the Tlingit natives converted to the Christian faith.

Like other stories involving imperialism and conquest, the Alaskan colony had become too much of a financial burden to the Russian empire. The enterprising Seward, sensing a "deal," started negotiating with the Russian czar to acquire Alaska in spite of the taunts and jeers of the American media. In addition to " Seward's Folly," other nicknames of ridicule thrown around were "Seward's Icebox" and "Walrussia," a reference to the walrus mammals found in Alaskan waters.

But Seward had the last laugh. In October 1867 the Russian flag was replaced by the Stars and Stripes in Sitka. The Russians then living in the colony were allowed to become American citizens. But many chose to return to Russia and a few migrated down the coast, mostly to California.

But this wasn't the end of Sitka historically. Until 1906, Sitka remained the capital of the Territory of Alaska. The capital was moved to Juneau, mainly because of the gold rush, which I will write on in the next commentary.

After the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941, Sitka became a full-scale American naval base, reaching a population of 37,000 at one point. After World War II, Sitka once more became the quiet village it was before the Russians and Americans came. The only boom in its recent history was the construction of the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Co. in 1959.

Sitka particularly comes to life in summertime. One of its major summer attractions is the Island Institute's Annual Sitka Symposium, which coincides with the Annual Music Festival. College credit for participation in this academic symposium is available through the University of Alaska. This is a good place to present a paper on minority cultures in the Philippines.

As I was departing from what I thought was such a spectacular experience, our tour guide approached me and said, "Are you Filipina?" I kidded him that I could pass for Tlingit, who look like our bothers and sisters in the Cordillera. He said the reason he asked was because his wife is a Filipina from Isabela. He said they met in Alaska. Ah, Filipinos everywhere, for crying out loud!

(On summer break, Dr. Belinda A. Aquino of the University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty will talk about the Gold Fever in Alaska next.)

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

THEY SAID

Plague of rats

"Even our fearless fighters are frightened of the little men in gray suits."

—Ken Gray of Houston on the rat problem plaguing the United States

Arresting

"We arrested the ex-President (Estrada). There is no reason why we can't arrest anybody."

—PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza on the possibility of having to arrest Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Need for tourism

"The substitution of tourism as a support base for the economy would make it necessary to go abroad just to earn a decent living."

—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on his target earnings of $13 billion

Changing the rules

"It is important that we don't start the habit of changing the rules every time it suits us. The majority will always end up tyrannical."

—Sen. Sergio Osmeña on his filibustering to stop the majority bloc from reorganizing committees and chairmanships

Mum's the word

"You know me, I'm a very scientific person. I don't shoot from the hip."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, not wanting to comment on whether or not she believed Sen. Panfilo Lacson has dollar deposits abroad

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SSS controversy must not happen again

THE CONTRETEMPS at the Social Security System was a disgraceful affair and the employees should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. To take to the streets for no better reason than that they didn't like the management style of their president would be laughable if it didn't have such serious repercussions.

How would they know what his management style was like? I doubt more than just a handful had any direct dealings with him. Well, I have had and I can assure the misguided SSS employees that they did a great disservice to a decent, honest, effective manager.

They might want to consider how they'd feel if they were similarly treated.

Why then did they do it? The logical assumption is that Vitaliano Nañagas II was getting too good at his job and some people in the SSS felt threatened of exposure of wrongdoing. So, they incited and manipulated a largely unaware crowd. Shades of Edsa III.

Well, they haven't met Cora dela Paz yet. They may have won this battle, but they'll lose the war.

It was a sad reflection of the quality of people in the public service. At least in this agency. It should send a signal to other agencies: If you are an honest and hard-working public servant, you should refuse to be manipulated by those with a personal agenda.

For President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the message is very clear. She must never allow this to happen again. She has already declared this, but it must be reinforced. And she must be prepared to resort to draconian measures if anyone else tries a similar stunt. And there's little doubt some have been now emboldened. She cannot afford to be blackmailed like this again. She must use all the legitimate force at her disposal to quell any similar rebellion at the very beginning.

Public servants walking out of their jobs and demonstrating publicly is anarchy, if not treason, and should be so treated. There are proper channels to handle grievances, the streets are not one of them.—**PETER WALLACE, president, The Economist Intelligence Unit Philippines Inc., 14th Floor, Sagittarius Building, HV dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City**

LETTERS

Personal view of 'open skies'

I HAVE noticed lately a veritable flood of news stories contradicting each other about the advantages or disadvantages in adopting an "open skies" policy.

As a regular traveler between my home province of Leyte and Manila due to demands of my business, this is my observation.

Before, when there were only Philippine Airlines flights between Manila and Tacloban, it was always a great hustle to book a flight to and from Manila especially when one was in a hurry or during peak seasons such as December, All Souls' Day, toward the opening and closing of classes and during the fiesta season in Leyte which is during the months of April and May. At that time when PAL lorded it over Philippine skies, booking a flight in Tacloban was under the control of fixers and seats were being sold for P200 to P500 each, depending on how urgent a traveler needed to get on board to reach his destination. And this simply means that certain PAL employees then were in cahoots with the fixers.

But when new players entered the domestic air market like Cebu Pacific and Air Philippines, the travails of Leyte's and Samar's plane passengers suddenly disappeared. Fixers stopped their nefarious trade. The long queue of "wait-listed passengers" became a thing of the past. Purchasing air passage tickets became a breeze. And the pricing of air travel became competitive and beneficial to travelers.

I believe that the complaint of PAL that it is bound to go under should the government adopt an "open skies" policy is all baloney. If true, then let it go, for its problems are self-made and due to mismanagement. Let PAL go under for there are many waiting in the wings to take its place.

I remember the case involving land transportation. About a decade ago, when the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board liberalized the granting of franchise to new land transportation operators, the old franchisees raised a big howl, claiming all of them—new and old franchise-holders—are bound to stop operations due to losses with the entry of an unlimited number of players.

The LTFRB disregarded those dire warnings and today transport service in the provinces and to remote areas have greatly improved. Of course, the economies of running an airline is greatly different from those of a bus company. But the complaint from both operators stem from the same roots: vested selfish interest, lack of concern for the welfare of travelers and lack of regard for the national interest.—**ANTONIO SUDARIO, Dagami, Leyte**

Clarifications from General Dominguez

YOUR editorial on Aug. 10 shows the kind of "balance"' your paper stands for: you treated the allegations of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda as Gospel truth and the general's reaction as so-so i.e.: "Sure General…denied all…" Without saying it, you have concluded that the priest would not lie; the officer(s) would not tell the truth.

Have you checked into the allegations before you decided they were worth publishing or whatever is the basis for deciding a story's newsworthiness? Hope you find my observations on the issues raised by Father Nacorda worth the space, the same space used to malign my person.

- "The soldiers were told to pull out and let the Abu Sayyaf escape." Investigators from Army headquarters sent immediately after the Lamitan clash failed to stumble on any similar revelation. They came at a time when the Basilan troops were downhearted and therefore could have willingly told all that they felt was wrong in the operation. It would have been a good break for the investigators too, as this kind of information would prop up their careers.

I doubt any orders as Father Nacorda has described it, could have been given. I would not. I did not. Anyone who did would have been shot right there and then. No need for a court martial.

- "The general met with the families of the hostages in Zamboanga, flew to Lamitan and distributed 'ransom' money among the hospital staff." I have never seen the families. I saw the three hostages on June 2 (the others the next day) in Lamitan. I went there before lunch and visited my casualties in the civilian hospital. I asked the head doctor as to how I could help defray hospital expenses for attending to my soldiers. Then I offered P5,000, which he gracefully accepted. This was described by Father Nacorda as *"merienda"* money, which came *"daw"* from a briefcase full of ransom cash. (Which explains his allegation that I had met with the families of the hostages.) I don't carry around a briefcase. I possessed no ransom money.

- "The general said the firefight would end in the afternoon." What's wrong with that? The civilians there had to be reassured—so maybe, I said that when they expressed their concern about the raging battle. I had in mind the order I gave to the ground commander (Col. Jovenal Narcise): "Assault the compound before sundown!" (He answered yes, but he was able to do if after midnight. His assault force arrived after sundown.)

- "The general talked to Abu Sabaya by phone." The power was off that time so there was no landline communication. Also, there was no cell phone service in Lamitan. A satellite phone? It doesn't function when one is inside a building. Abu Sabaya is a propagandist. He can appear to be talking to anyone over the phone if he wanted to impress his hostages. I don't have his phone numbers. I don't need to have them. My policy as commander was consistent, and which I restated every time I received "feelers" for surrender from so called Abu Sayyaf leaders. "Surrender first, we'll talk later."

If I had put premium on money, I would have left the military service a long time ago. That might be difficult for the INQUIRER to understand just as it is difficult for me to understand how the INQUIRER decides on who is telling the truth and who isn't.

I welcome all investigations, even a court martial as a consequence of such investigations. No need to shoot after that. Soldiers are decent individuals and we respect human rights.—**ROMEO B. DOMINGUEZ, brigadier general, Armed Forces of the Philippines**

Let the Senate probe Ping, Loi

WHY can't our senators start to agree to find out the truth about allegations that at least two of their colleagues have stashed away large amounts of money into the United States, Canada and Hong Kong?

Our lawmakers need not be sophisticated to realize that unless the truth comes out, the tarnished image of the Senate will continue to be mired in thick muck. Sanctimonious debates and speculations will not save this poor country. Both the administration and opposition senators owe it to Senators Ping Lacson and Loi Ejercito to vindicate their names and punish those who are guilty. Besides, we cannot afford to have our laws crafted by criminals or our intelligence agency run by incompetent sleuths. After all, military intelligence head Victor Corpus said he would present all the evidence he has once a Senate investigation starts. Let the truth set us free. Then our lawmakers can start working on what's ailing this country: yes, the economy, stupid.—**JOSE B. PEREZ, 3rd Street, Villa Sorabella Subd., Naga City**

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6 winners
Micro Component
• Hot and Tap Dispenser

4TH PRIZE
6 winners
Washing Machine
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5TH PRIZE
6 winners
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• Hot and Tap Dispenser

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18.9 liters (5 gals.) and above = 18.9 liters (5 gals.)

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6. Kumpletuhin lang ang 50 stamps para makasali sa raffle draws. Siguraduhin lang na magpa-stamp/refill sa Agua Vida station kung saan nakuha 'yung "VCP Card." Ang VCP Card with stamp designs from other stations will not be honored.
7. Only completed VCP Card with authenticated security code and validated by the water station will be honored.
8. FREE refill can be claimed until 60 days from end of promo period.
9. Ilagay lang ang mga sumusunod sa stamp-completed VCP Card:
   a. pangalan
   b. tirahan
   c. telepono / contact number
   d. Agua Vida Refilling Station Address
   e. at lagdaan
   *raffle stubs with incomplete entries will be disqualified
10. I-detach ang raffle stub at ihulog sa drop box ng Agua Vida Station kung saan mo nakuha ang iyong VCP Card. Itago ang customer copy portion nito.
11. Deadline of entries:

1st Draw	September 30, 2001 8 PM
2nd Draw	November 30, 2001 8 PM
3rd Draw	December 31, 2001 8 PM
Grand SC Draw	December 31, 2001 8 PM

12. Magkakaroon ng dalawang (2) set of winners (GMA & Provincial) sa bawat draw date:

1st Draw	Oct. 15, 2001	7 PM	GMA & Prov	AVSI ofc.
2nd Draw	Dec. 15, 2001	7 PM	GMA & Prov	AVSI ofc.
3rd Draw	Jan. 15, 2002	7 PM	GMA & Prov	**TBA
Grand SC Draw	Jan. 15, 2002	7PM	GMA & Provincial	**TBA

- a DTI representative will be present during each raffle draw.
** venues of 3rd & grand showcase raffle draws will be submitted to DTI and announced prior to draw date

13. All non-winning entries for the first & second draws will automatically qualify for the remaining draw.
14. In case na manalo ng dalawang beses sa isang draw, ang prize na mas mataas ang halaga ang siyang mapapanalunan at ang mas mababa ay ipapa-raffle uli.
15. All winners will be notified thru registered mail and their names published in the leading newspaper and tabloids.
16. Promo period is from August 15, 2001 to December 31, 2001.
17. To claim your prize, present your customer copy of the raffle stub with a valid ID. Major prizes may be claimed at the Head Office (3/F SMI Comp., C. Raymundo Ave., Brgy. Maybunga, Pasig City), while consolation prizes may be claimed at the Agua Vida water station where you received your VCP Card. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days from notification. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from notification will be forfeited (with prior DTI approval).
18. Officers and staff of Agua Vida, its advertising agency, suppliers, and participating Agua Vida Refilling Stations, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified to join the promo.
19. All prizes are not convertible to cash. Prizes exceeding P10,000 are all tax free.
20. Refill more gallon bottles for more chances of winning.

See Posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0969, Series of 2001.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel tanks, dozers raid West Bank town, raze police building

JENIN, West Bank—Israeli tanks and bulldozers yesterday rumbled into the West Bank town of Jenin and destroyed a police headquarters in the deepest military thrust into Palestinian territory in 10 months of violence.

Palestinian witnesses said the tanks fired as they entered Jenin and heavy fighting erupted. The tanks halted at the governor's offices in the northern part of town, razed the nearby police building and began withdrawing three hours later.

The Army denied returning fire and said the raid responded to a wave of bombings, some of which were launched from Jenin. The show of force was also intended to persuade Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to do more to end the bloodshed.

Palestinian leaders condemned the attack, the deepest push into territory they control since they signed the interim Oslo peace accords with Israel in 1993, and appealed to the United Nations Security Council for international protection.

"This is a declaration of war," Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said of the incursion.

Gunbattles later flared south of Jerusalem in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and between nearby Beit Jala and the Jewish settlement of Gilo, which Israelis regard as a neighborhood of Jerusalem. Hospital sources said three people were hurt.

The Army said an Israeli settler was moderately wounded and a second person, described by settlers as a baby, was slightly hurt when gunmen shot at their car near the divided West Bank city of Hebron, which is also south of Jerusalem.

Several hundred protesters took to the streets in the West Bank towns of Tulkarm and Kalkilya, south of Jenin.

The violence dealt a new blow to hopes of ending bloodshed in which almost 680 people have been killed, including more than 500 Palestinians and about 150 Israelis, since a Palestinian flared against Israeli occupation last September.

Gunfire

Machinegun fire echoed though the night as people rushed to defend Jenin, which was handed over to Palestinian rule in 1995 under the Oslo accords.

At least four Palestinian security officers were hurt, Palestinian security sources said, before the tanks started to withdraw at around 4 a.m.

"It's a street battle," a hospital official said.

A senior Palestinian security official said 50 tanks and armored vehicles took part in the raid. Six helicopters firing flares and four jets flew overhead.

He said the soldiers remained in armored vehicles throughout the raid while activists ran through the streets with megaphones calling for people with guns to defend the town.

"They were met with fierce resistance . . . because of the heavy and intensive firing from Palestinian gunmen everywhere," said the official, Col. Abu el-Fatah.

It was the first time the Army had penetrated the heart of a Palestinian-ruled town since the Palestinian uprising began in September after peace talks became deadlocked.

The Army said the raid was in response to "terror attacks." They include a suicide bombing which killed 15 people and the bomber in Jerusalem last week, and a similar attack which wounded 15 Israelis near the northern town of Haifa on Sunday.

"During the operation, Israeli forces along with engineering equipment and bulldozers, protected by armored tanks, entered a Palestinian-ruled area to destroy the building," the Army said in a statement. "The soldiers refrained from returning fire in consideration for the Palestinian population in the area. *Reuters*

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PROTESTERS burn a newspaper carrying a photograph of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during a demonstration outside the Japanese consulate in Hong Kong Aug. 14.

REUTERS

War shrine visit enrages Asian nations

SEOUL—Angry anti-Japanese demonstrations were held for a second day yesterday in several Asian nations after Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's homage at a shrine to Japan's war dead.

South Korea and China summoned Tokyo's ambassadors to protest at Koizumi's gesture, which reopened old wounds over Japan's militarist past. North Korea said Koizumi had insulted Asian people.

South Korean students burned painted copies of the Japanese flag in Seoul after being stopped from getting to the Japanese Embassy by thousands of riot police. They painted slogans saying "kill Koizumi" on the flags.

Demonstrators also burned a lifesize effigy of Koizumi in a Seoul park.

In Hong Kong, demonstrators set fire to the wartime Imperial flag as they marched on the Japanese consulate.

In Beijing, a lone demonstrator was stopped by police from unfurling a banner in front of Japan's Embassy. Police confronted the middle-aged man and took away his banner, but released him after a brief interrogation, witnesses said.

The Japanese leader unleashed a wave of new anger among nations that went through Japanese occupation in the last century.

Wednesday is the anniversary of the end of the Imperial Army occupation on Aug. 15, 1945 and is a national holiday in South Korea.

Police will remain on alert, particularly after 20 men chopped off the tips of their little fingers in a show of anti-Japanese defiance in Seoul on Monday. The men had threatened to pin the fingers to the Japanese Embassy wall. *AFP*

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Musharraf vows to hold polls in October 2002

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan celebrated its Independence Day yesterday with a promise by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf to hold both provincial and federal elections in October 2002.

Musharraf said the exact date of the elections will be announced later when he addresses newly elected local councils.

"I will give a clear roadmap to put in elected governments at the provincial and federal level by October 2002 in accordance with the Supreme Court judgment," Musharraf told an Independence Day ceremony on the sprawling lawns of the white marble presidential palace.

With giant banners proclaiming Pakistan a great state and Kashmir—the disputed territory and cause of two wars with neighbor India—a humanitarian tragedy, Musharraf vowed to move the country toward a democratic rule that will last.

"I salute the nation, I salute the people of Pakistan," said Musharraf, "We have to advocate tolerance, understanding of each other's views and beliefs. The character and performance of a nation is the sum total of the performance and character of every one of its citizens."

Musharraf pleaded for tolerance and urged an end to sectarian violence, which has left scores dead in this mostly Muslim nation.

"We have to unite to shun sectarian forces, shun despondency and have faith in God and also in ourselves that we will be able to achieve great successes," Musharraf said.

Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in October 1999 saying the democratic institutions had collapsed and the civilian government of Nawaz Sharif had decimated the economy and threatened the survival of the country.

In Pakistan the army has ruled for 27 of the last 54 years.

Successive civilian governments have been thrown out on charges of corruption and ineptitude.

Since Musharraf's takeover the international community has been pressing him to give a date for the return of democracy. He promised that date later Tuesday.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered Musharraf to hold federal elections by October 2002, something the military ruler hasconsistently promised to do.

After raising the green and white Pakistani flag, Musharraf praised recently held local elections—the first phase in the return of democracy to this nation. *AP*

PAKISTAN military ruler General Pervez Musharraf hoists the national flag during the celebration of Pakistan's 54th Independence anniversary in Islamabad Aug. 14. REUTERS

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Entrance examinations for MBA Standard, MBA-MM, Ateneo-Regis, Civil Service Commission, Local Scholarship MBA Programs are scheduled on August 18 & Sept. 1, 2001 at 8:00 a.m.

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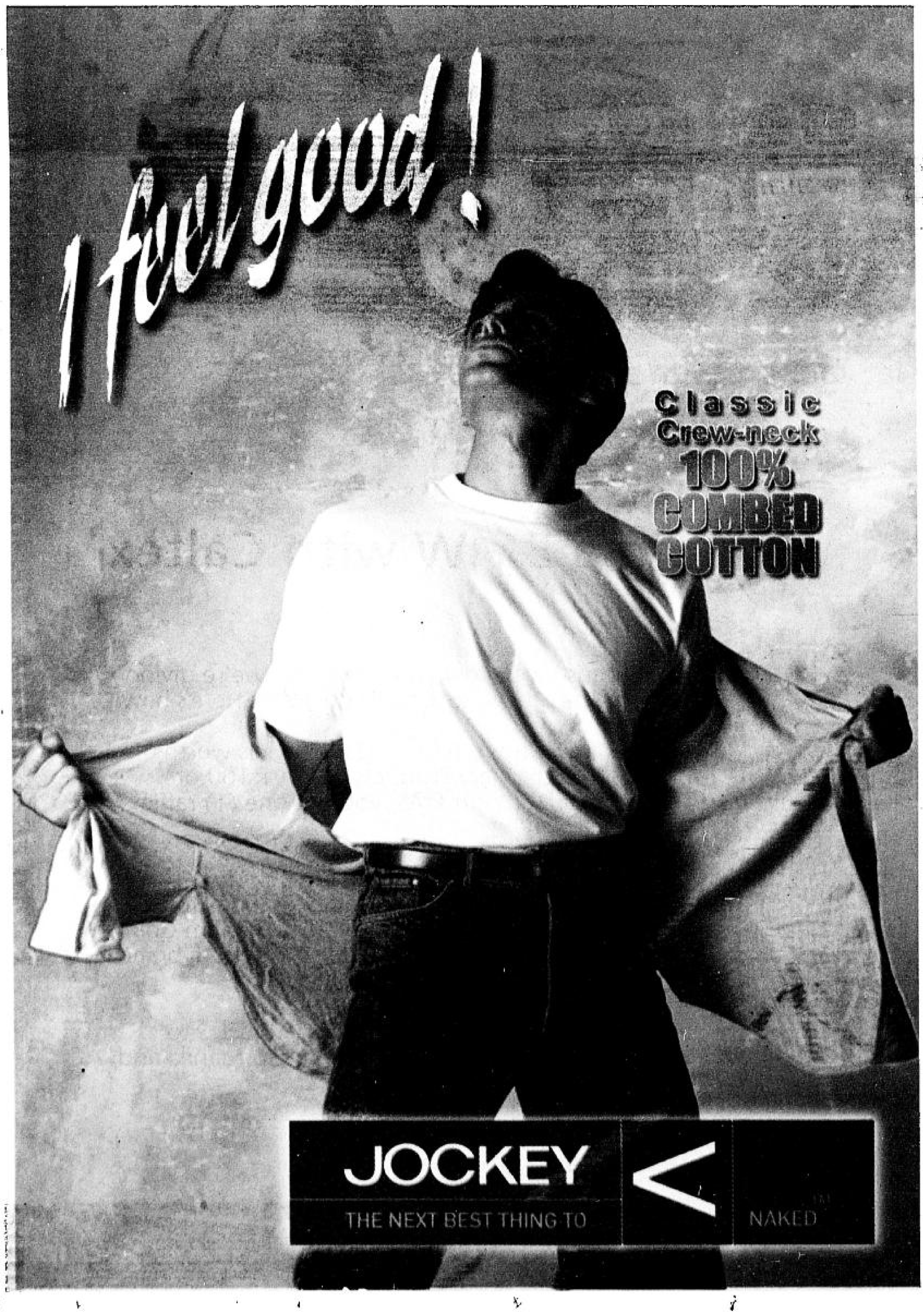

Solar-powered plane sets altitude records

BARKING SANDS, Hawaii—An unpiloted, solar-powered aircraft set two new world altitude records Monday as it soared to 32.16 km, US space officials said.

The record for propeller-driven aircraft was set at 2:04 p.m. when the wing-shaped plane dubbed Helios reached the altitude of 80,201 feet, beating the record set in 1998 by the aircraft Pathfinder Plus—a smaller version of Helios, said Jenny Baer-Reidhart, spokesperson for Nasa's Dryden Flight Research Center.

Forty minutes later, Helios broke another altitude record established by a SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance jet in 1966 as it soared to 28.8 km.

At 4:09 p.m., Helios reached 32.16 km, the spokesperson said. The temperature at that altitude was -40 degrees Celsius.

"The aircraft is in the process of descending," she said, adding that the record had yet to be made official.

The flight was expected to last 14 to 16 hours, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

Helios, which scientists believe could one day replace some satellites, took off from a missile base on the Hawaiian island of Kauai at 8:49 a.m. and climbed at a rate of 66 meters per minute.

Developed by the Monrovia, California-based firm AeroVironment, the flying wing features 14 propellers solar-powered by motors that consume about as much energy as a standard hair dryer. It uses battery power at night.

With a wingspan of some 82 meters, Helios is wider than a Boeing 747 or a C-5 military transport aircraft but not nearly as fast. It takes off at the speed of a bicycle and travels at a cruising speed of 30 to 50 km per hour.

Made of carbon fibre and graphite, Helios is a prototype of an aircraft scientists plan to use as a "flying satellite," capable of remaining aloft for months at a time and fly anywhere a mission requires.

Nasa said Helios could be used as a telecommunications or scientific satellite. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

IRA withdraws proposals to disarm

BELFAST—The Irish Republican Army (IRA) announced yesterday that it was withdrawing landmark proposals to disarm, in a significant blow to efforts to salvage Northern Ireland's power-sharing government. The group said in a statement it was withdrawing its proposals to put its arms "completely and verifiably beyond use" because of their rejection by the province's Protestant Ulster Unionist Party and the failure of British officials to "fulfil their commitments" to the Good Friday peace accord. The IRA said that conditions no longer existed for the disarmament proposals, agreed last week with the International Independent Decommissioning Body (IICD), to progress. *AFP*

Russia rebuffs Rumsfeld on ABM

MOSCOW—Russia firmly rebuffed Monday a pitch by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld for scrapping a key 1972 arms treaty and pressed instead for detailed negotiations linking missile defense and nuclear arms cuts. The sides staked out contrary positions in a day of intense talks at the Russian defense ministry and at the Kremlin that seemed to bring them no closer to resolving the dispute over US plans for a missile defense system. The Russians notably rejected the US view that the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, signed in 1972 by Moscow and Washington and which rules out the kind of anti-missile defenses the US is proposing, has outlived its usefulness. *AFP*

Macedonia fighting rages on despite deal

SKOPJE—Macedonian forces clashed with ethnic Albanian rebels yesterday despite the signing of a peace plan between the leaders of the fragile republic's political parties, officials said. Army sources said that rebel gunmen had attacked government positions in the hills north of the mainly ethnic Albanian city of Tetovo and that grenades had been fired at troops based north of the capital Skopje. Government troops returned fire, a military source said. There were no reports of casualties during the clashes. The leaders of Macedonia's main political parties on Monday signed up to a Western-backed peace plan which would see the rebels lay down their arms in exchange for reforms to boost ethnic Albanian community rights. *AFP*

New Delhi hit by heaviest rain in 40 years

NEW DELHI—New Delhi was reeling yesterday from the heaviest single-day rainfall in 40 years, which waterlogged the Indian capital on the eve of Independence Day. "Delhi recorded 16 cm (6.4 inches) of rainfall in the last 24 hours," S.C. Gupta, a senior Delhi meteorological official said. "This is the highest since 1961 when Delhi recorded 18 cm (7.2 inches) of rainfall in 24 hours in the month of August," Gupta added. The heavy rains were caused by a phenomenon called the "Western Disturbance" which is a low pressure area over Pakistan, Gupta said. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

19 more dead in flash floods

THE DEATH toll in the flash floods that struck southern and central Philippines over the weekend rose yesterday with 17 more fatalities reported in Zamboanga del Norte and two in Negros Occidental

The Department of Public Works and Highways estimated damage to infrastructure facilities in Zamboanga del Norte at P10.8 million.

Insp. Nieva Rosal, chief of the provincial police community relations service, said the latest fatalities were Anastacio Danque, Rommel Aliga, Aida Bakilta, Raymond Bakilta, Lolita Elias, Analyn Isig, Daloydoy Cuenca, Santiago Lucas, Dominador Isig, Loredel Recososa, Federito Macorial, Juanita Culanculan, a certain Macorial, and an unidentified boy.

Rosal said two persons were killed in Siayan town and another in Sindangan.

Reported missing were Leoncio Antanod, Boyet Aliga, Gil Lina, Gina Lina, Diego Isig, Leonard Busniyon, Ramil Busniyon, Dodong Busniyon, Domingo Isig, Nenita Culanculan, Analisa Mocarial and Roedel Recososa.

Hit by the flash floods were the towns of Manukan, Jose Dalman, Sindangan, Siayan, Siocon and Sirawai and Dipolog City.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office said more than 1,000 people were displaced.

In Misamis Oriental, the flash floods killed one person and forced the evacuation of about 3,000 persons in three towns.

Jesus Hunayon, 60, of Alubijid town, drowned when he was carried away by rampaging floodwaters.

Most of the evacuees sought refuge in barangay halls, schools, churches and high places.

Flash floods also hit El Salvador and Initao towns.

Landslides occurred in Punta Gorda in Jasaan town, with boulders blocking the highway.

State of calamity

In the Visayas, Antique and two towns in Negros Occidental have been placed under a state of calamity after continuous heavy rain caused flooding, destroyed houses and crops, and rendered roads impassable.

In a resolution passed Monday, the Antique provincial board requested relief and rehabilitation assistance from the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

It also activated the local price control body to cushion the impact of the calamity on consumers.

The national highway from Antique to Iloilo has been rendered impassable to vehicles since Saturday. Floodwaters created a 15-foot-deep hole along a 30-meter span at Sitio Maalan, Barangay Caromangay, Hamtic town, 20 kilometers from San Jose, the provincial capital.

The damaged road is 700 feet above

19 MORE/p.15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of Luzon will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 26°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 22°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/15/01

ROUNDUP

Palawan ecozone bill

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda has filed a bill creating an ecozone and freeport here. Under Senate Bill 651 or the "Southern Palawan Special Economic Zone and Free Port Act of 2001," the ecozone is aimed at generating jobs, Legarda said. It will cover Balabac, Bataraza and Brooke's Point. Palawan has been identified as part of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Growth Area. Peace and order problems in the Southern Philippines, however, have affected the growth potentials of the city, Legarda said. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-Palawan gov cleared

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Supreme Court has cleared the name of former Palawan Gov. Salvador Socrates in a 1998 electoral protest filed by losing candidate Douglas Hagedorn, brother of former Puerto Princesa mayor Edward Hagedorn. In an en banc resolution, the Supreme Court dismissed Hagedorn's petition as moot and academic. It also rejected a petition questioning the legitimacy of the succession of now Gov. Joel Reyes. Hagedorn filed an electoral protest against Socrates in 1998 for alleged massive vote buying and terrorism.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Beef buyers tap Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan residents fear that market prices of beef will jack up because of an increase in beef demand elsewhere. Some cow traders here said Metro Manila buyers had turned to Palawan where the cows are safe from the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Some meat vendors said they not only have to compete with local traders but also with Manila buyers. This has prompted the provincial council to pass an ordinance regulating the transport of animals and impose an inspection fee for a shipping permit and a veterinary health certificate.

Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Murder baffles police

NAGA CITY—Police are struggling for leads in solving the murder of a barangay chair in Camaligan town on Sunday. The victim, Rudy Prado, was shot several times in the face with M-14 rifles and a .45-cal. pistol after he had parked his van about 9 p.m. at the jeepney terminal in Sitio Queborac, Bagumbayan Norte. Prado was collecting fees from his billiards hall when he was attacked, according to Supt. Eliciar Bron, city police chief.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Permanent power supply

LEGAZPI CITY—The provincial boards of Albay and Catanduanes have endorsed the proposed Small Island Grid Interconnection Project of the National Power Corp., which aims to connect small islands to the main grid of the Tiwi geothermal power plant in Albay. Albay board member Ramon Lawenko, chair of the committee on energy, said the interconnection project was among the highlights of Napocor's nationwide transmission program that aimed to extend the benefits of uninterrupted, inexpensive and stable power supply to consumers on small islands.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fire kills doctor, son

DAGUPAN CITY—A doctor and his 12-year-old son were killed in a fire that gutted their house in Bacayao Sur village on Sunday. Arson investigators said Manuel Vallo, 43, was about to jump from his terrace but went back inside the house to save his eldest son John Michael. Their bodies were recovered in their bedroom. Vallo's two daughters and a maid were injured and brought to a hospital. SF02 Felix Martinez said the hour-long fire was caused by electrical overload.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Poultry farms closed

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—Local officials have ordered the closure of two poultry farms here amid complaints that the facilities have become health hazards. Mayor Jaime Vistan helped the police in closing the farms, which have become the breeding ground of flies in the village. Teachers and elementary pupils at the Bulihan Elementary School earlier staged a rally to demand the closure of the farms.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Comelec disqualifies mayor

PAGADIAN CITY—The Commission on Elections has disqualified a winning town mayor of Zamboanga del Sur from seeking another term during the May 14 polls. In a decision dated Aug. 1, the Comelec's first division granted a petition filed by lawyer Miguel Lingating to disqualify Lapuyan Mayor Cesar Sulong. Sulong was appointed commissioner of the National Commission for Indigenous People despite objections from indigenous groups. He is also facing several graft cases before the Sandiganbayan, which were filed by Lingating while Sulong was mayor of Lapuyan from 1992 to 1998. The Comelec proclaimed Lingating winner in the May 14 polls.

Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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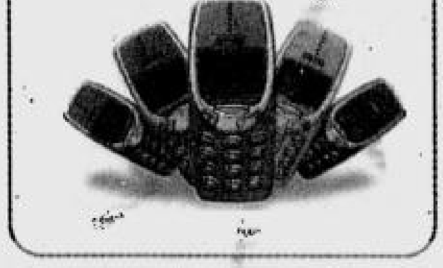

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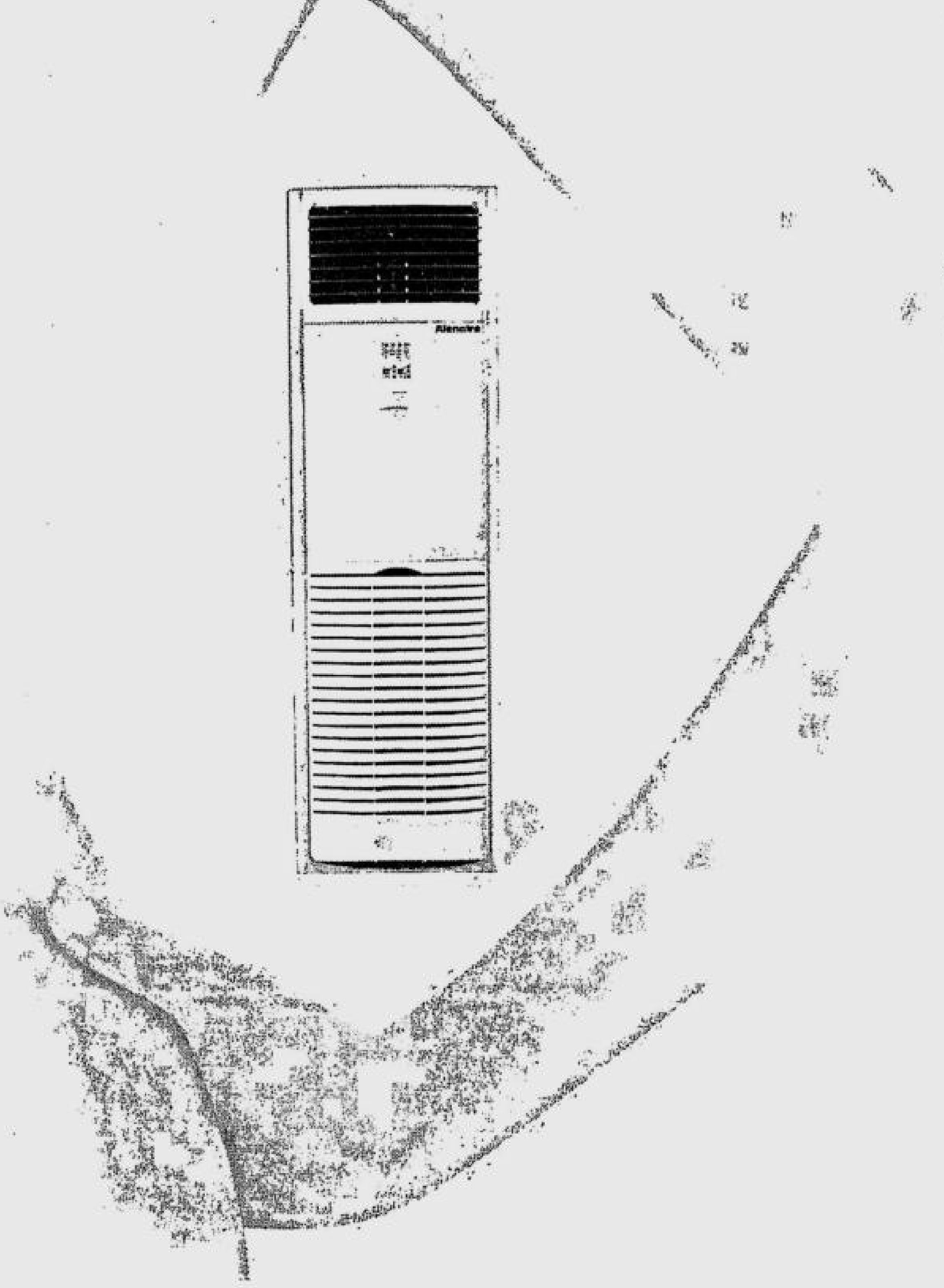

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Church leaders opos plan to reopen caso

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Bishops, priests and lay leaders led by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo are opposing a plan to revive a government-operated casino in the hotel owned by relatives of City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

In a letter of appeal dated July 31, the Church leaders reminded President Macapagal-Arroyo to make good her promise to "raise the moral standards of the government and society" during her State-of-the-Nation Address in July.

"We appealed to your avowed moral leadership. Please show us that what you said it not just a rhetorical circus on air but is a conviction of your heart, meant for actualization," Lagdameo and 20 other members of the Presbyteral Council said.

"Prove this to us who believe in you. Stop whatever plans there are to allow the casino back in the city of Iloilo," they added.

Plans to revive the casino, to be operated by the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. (Pagcor) at Sarabia Manor Hotel and Convention Center, have been under way.

Treñas told reporters that his brother-in-law, Salvador Sarabia, wrote him recently, asking for his approval to revive the casino that has been closed down since the ears.

Treñas said he endorsoia's lett city council. He said his do grant permit for the casino woend on come of the public hearin

Amante Espejo Jr., elic info officer, said it was not tlime tha tried to woo city offic revive sino.

Pagcor official Robert visited t ous mayor, Mansueto , asking favorable endorsement oino, he Malabor was against anof gaml added.

In opposing the revivaasino, th leaders said that while gan moden not necessarily evil, the ipractices sequences that go with ithem to the "culture of gambling.

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In its letter to the Pr the cou quoted a 1993 pastoral lued by b Northern Luzon on the is of cas bling.

"Casinos give even msions to money. Businesses haveed becau sino gambling. Jobs havost. Fam been broken. And in sces death cides have resulted," it s

Stranded Banahaw climbers rescued

LUCENA CITY—At least 16 mountaineers trapped in Mt. Banahaw were rescued by policemen of Dolores town in Quezon and a civilian radio group on Monday.

A report to the provincial police in Camp Guillermo Nakar here said the climbers were stranded in Sitio Unang Durungawan, Barangay Kinabuhayan, in the upper portion of the mountain.

An earlier report, which was sent through a cellular phone around 9 p.m., said one member of the mountaineering group from the Technological University of the Philippines in Cavite suffered a cardiovascular attack.

The report, however, turned out to be untrue.

The group was trekking on a path made tricky and slippery after several hours of continuous heavy rain.

Senior Insp. Arthur Malabanan, Dolores police chief, immediately formed a rescue team with volunteers from the Banahaw-Dolores radio group.

The climbers were brought to safety Monday noon.

A female member of the mountaineering team, identified as Esel Mosquites, 18, of Amadeo, Cavite, suffered minor bruises and from exhaustion.

She was immediately brought to a clinic for treatment.

The mountaineering group had been on a spiritual pilgrimage to the mystical mountain since Sunday when the rains came, it was learned. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Guarding vs dgu Try scented cdle

BAGUIO CITY—Tired of driving away the dreaded dengue-carrying mosquitoes?

Try lighting a scented candle containing eucalyptus extract made by workers of a local nongovernment organization helping disabled persons here.

Edward de los Santos, chair of the Tahanang Walang Hagdan's local chapter Farad, said the candle's scent serves as a mosquito repellant.

"The candle should specifically be lighted every 4 o'clock in the afternoon in consonance with the Department of Health's 4 o'clock habit campaign," he said.

De los Santos said they have tested the candle and observed that its scent drives away mosquitoes.

He said the product had undergone observation by the nuns of the Maximillian Sisters Convent in Parañaque.

The nuns, he said, initially observed that mosquitoes never get near a eucalyptus tree, giving them the idea of exploring its potential aquito rep

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20 prisoners eap as guards wat T

ILAGAN, Isabela—Twenty prisoners escaped from the provincial jail in Barangay Alibagu here on Monday night.

Eduardo Clarin, assistant provincial jail warden, said the prisoners sawed off the iron grills of a cell.

The jailbreak happened at 10 p.m. while prison guards were reportedly watching television.

Clarin identified the escapees as Peligan Otongan, Ignacio Carnate, Arnold Vinasoy, Gerome Inggo, Samuel Deocares, Alvaro Bacolod, Jonathan Valdez, Arnel Domingo, Mateo Bonifacio, Cornelio Simon, Joselito Martin, Robert Ngaya-an, Leo Cara, Gil Calica, Joseph Tubban, Erdival Agnaya, Danilo Ramos, Jeffrey Eborde, Rufino Dorigo and Elvis Bubud.

The inmates are facing charges of murder, rape, homicide, theft and robbery, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives, prison officials said.

Clarin said the inmates used hacksaw bladeitar stri ing off ths iron g reportedl down wall usinget tied to grills.

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"*Mahliwanag 20 sila la* hard to because ites had Clarin saior *Visa NorthernBureau*

Bongbong's spokespersoqui

LAOAG CITY—The press consultant of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. resigned on Monday after serving the Ilocos Norte governor for three years.

Lito Gorospe, a long-time Marcos man since the days of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, started working at the provincial capitol press office as media consultant in 1998 while serving the young Marcos and the Marcos family as spokesperson.

Gorospe submitted his letter of resignation, effective Aug. 31, before he left for the United States on July 31.

Marcos, however, has yet to read the letter. The governor has filed a 15-day leave of absence effective Aug. 15 on a "personal" matter, according to provincial administrator Irineo Martinez.

"There was no mention of where and how the governor will spend his leave. I am also not aware of it personally," Martinez said.

He said Gorospe nly be resigned until the govcepts it.

Gorospe's resignatiot come a employees at the provins office been floating the idea ry since l

"He would suddenbut the t ingly that he's had it,s office said.

"Maybe he wants tlife priv been in the service ande Marco his life, anyway," the ee added

Gorospe quit his pe heels c nation of lawyer Louii" Aranc the governor's wife, a ate secr Gameng Foundation, te corpo operates and maintaiprovinci and the Sarusar Tradroduct Center.

The two entities wp after elected governor in 19
Cristina Arzadon, PLern Lu

LT. GEN. Gregorio Camiling (left), Southern Command chief, and Col. Hermogenes Esperon, 103rd Brigade commander, plan tactical maneuvers against the Abu Sayyaf bandits with Gen. Glicerio Sua. 1st Division chief, in Kapatagan, Isabela City, in Basilan. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Family of Army officer slain by Abus seeks probe

BAGUIO CITY—The family of an Army field commander, who was killed in a June 2 ambush by the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan, is asking the government to investigate the military operations there.

The appeal came after allegations surfaced that military officials had been conniving with the bandit group.

Leonora Bulong Guinid, aunt of slain 2nd Lt. Kenneth Bulong, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 2000, said Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's revelations had raised serious questions about the operations that resulted in her nephew's death.

Bulong led a tank team through Lamitan when the bandit group struck on June 2. His team was among the troops doing flanking maneuvers to cordon off the Jose Ma. Torres Hospital where the bandits holed themselves up, Guinid said.

"Father Nacorda's revelations bothered us very much. The military must explain whether this (alleged collusion) was the reason Kenneth was left abandoned to lead his soldiers through that firefight," she said.

Guinid, a former Baguio councilor, is Bulong's immediate guardian when he studied at the PMA four years ago.

As early as June, she said Bulong's family had been getting feelers from sources who referred to the alleged strategic errors in the military mission in Lamitan.

"Then Father Nacorda first spoke to the media and said the military was unnecessarily sacrificing young soldiers. So, I was already very fearful about Kenneth's real mission," she said.

Guinid said she was hurt by the implications of Nacorda's revelations on Bulong's death because his last mission was conducted on the last day of his tour of duty there.

"He had prepared a list of gifts he was bringing home. He was on his way home. I cried recently when my sister-in-law (Kenneth's mother) brought me a dress made in Mindanao. He had already bought me his gift before he died," she said.

Guinid said she and Bulong's parents are scheduled to discuss their plea to Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to investigate the priest's allegations.

Senators Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, both members of PMA Class 1971, filed Senate Resolution No. 104 seeking a Senate inquiry into Nacorda's allegations. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

19 more dead in flash floods

(From page 13)

sea level.

"We attempted to fill in the hole but heavy rains have continuously loosened the soil," provincial disaster coordinator Broderick Train said.

Commuters have to get off and walk to the opposite side of the damaged road where they transfer to vehicles bound for San Jose or Iloilo.

Entry points to the province have been closed to traffic from 6 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. to prevent accidents.

The Patnongon-Nabas road leading to the northern part of the province and Aklan had also been impassable until yesterday.

Floods washed out roads in coastal areas that were built as alternative routes to the national highway undergoing construction.

Train said bridges in Ginsang-an-Asluman in Hamtic, Aras-asan in Tobias Fornier and Nato Bridge in Anini-y were also impassable.

Evacuations

No casualties were reported in Antique as of Tuesday but 100 persons were evacuated to the Hamtic town hall after flash floods destroyed their houses.

Eleven more barangays were flooded in Belison town.

In Tibiao town, 54 persons were evacuated after a whirlwind damaged 10 houses on Saturday. Heavy flooding was also reported in eight of the 27 barangays of San Jose.

Train said damage to agriculture and infrastructure had reached P50 million.

Milkfish and prawns were reportedly floating on the national highway after most of the 700 hectares of fishpond in Hamtic overflowed.

Train said flooding also damaged around 300 hectares of rice lands in the province.

Perennial landslides

Landslides have become a perennial problem for Antique, whose mountain ranges have been heavily eroded through years of illegal logging and slope farming.

Train said the damage caused by the recent flood is one of the worst in many years.

In Negros Occidental, the death toll caused by floods and landslide rose to nine yesterday.

Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas Rene Villa said he has called the attention of the NDCC on the damage and casualties in the two provinces.

"I also got the assurance of the Department of Public Works and Highways that they will release at least P5 million for the repair of damaged bridges and roads in Antique," Villa said in a phone interview.

The continuous rains in southern Negros also caused the evacuation of 3,080 families or 17,229 persons in Binalbagan, Himamaylan, Isabela, Hinobaan and Sipalay towns.

The Hinobaan and Ilog governments have declared their towns in a state of calamity.

The Himamaylan municipal council also declared 11 of its 19 barangays in a state of calamity.

Forty-two houses have been destroyed and 132 others were damaged in the flood-stricken areas.

The latest fatalities were Alejandro Vasquez, who drowned as he was crossing the Caradioan River in Himamaylan; and Lucie Domiit, 21, who was killed in a landslide in Sipalay City Monday.

Other fatalities were Nida Claveria, 45, of Binalbagan who drowned when flood waters hit her house, and Nelia Trinidad, 49, and her two children Riza Mae, 2, and Lynn, 4.

Trinidad's house was hit by a boulder during a landslide in Barangay Carabalan, Himamaylan on Saturday.

In Hinobaan, the three drowning victims were Teofilo Negre, a certain Rudy and Ludovico Manos Jr., 4.

Still missing were Ronick Claveria, 9, and his sister Iris, 3, of Binalbagan.

Gov. Joseph Marañon said the provincial government has allocated P160,000 to purchase 200 bags of rice for Ilog, Cauayan and Hinobaan, and for medicine.

Marañon said initial reports from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist showed damage to rice, vegetables and fisheries in Sipalay, Hinobaan, Hinigaran and Binalbagan at P15.19 million.

Marañon blamed the flooding on forest denudation in southern Negros. *Lullie A. Micabalo and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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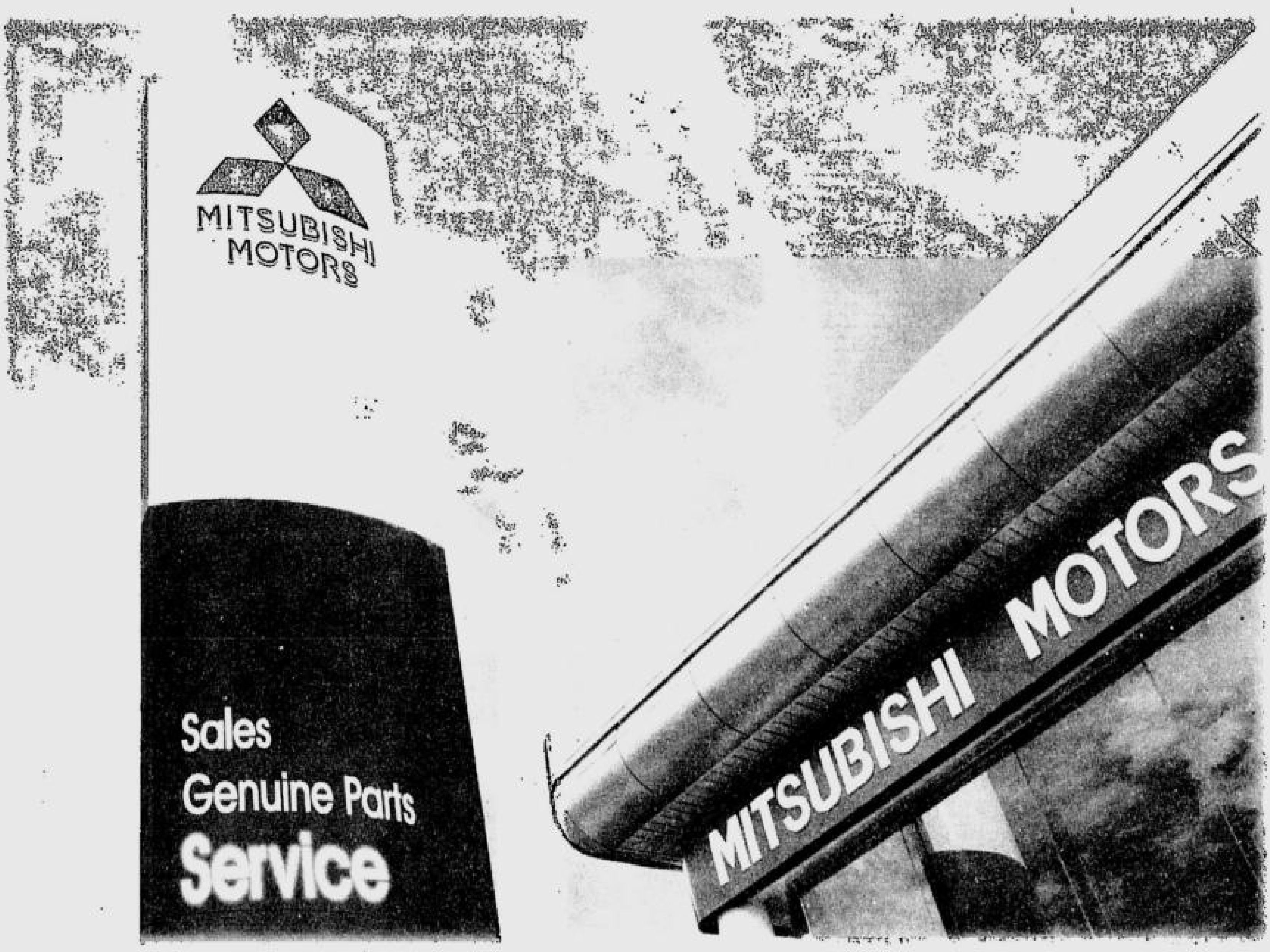

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor • ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Return of the native

BY VINCENT CABREZA
Baguio City

POVERTY in interior Ifugao has fueled a renaissance of *mumbaki* (Ifugao spiritual priests and healers), who are again in demand there as indigenous doctors because their "powers" may be the only shield that communities have left to combat the rising costs of medicine and food.

IFUGAO "mumbakis" gather for the ordination of their colleague in Barangay Hapao in Hungduan, Ifugao.

PHOTOS BY TOMMY HAFALLA

Ifugao's coping mechanism for abject poverty is apparently a return of the native, with new *mumbakis* being discovered and ordained in the last few years, said Cordillera photographer Tommy Hafalla.

Hafalla had documented an ordination rite in Hapao, a village of Hungduan, involving five of the province's venerated *mumbakis*. The documentation came when he shot video footage for Kidlat de Guia, son of international filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik.

De Guia was among several young Asian filmmakers who won special film grants from the Discovery Channel in April. His crew was in Ifugao from July 9 to 24.

'Mumbaki' drought

The province had suffered a *mumbaki* drought in the last decade, as recruitment dwindled. Catholic influences and the cosmopolitan nature of the new Ifugao generation discouraged interest in indigenous spiritual healing, according to a Baguio-based *mumbaki*. The INQUIRER discussed the *mumbaki* situation with him earlier, through an interpreter from Hapao.

"Government and civic groups have been discouraging *cañao* and other indigenous practices because they insist that these rituals are very expensive. The (Catholic) Church says much the same thing, and younger generations accepted these arguments for some time," the *mumbaki* said.

In fact, the Cordillera almost saw the disappearance of indigenous doctors in most provinces, including the Ibaloi *mambunongs* (healers) of Benguet, Hafalla said.

But these Cordillera healers have started to resurface.

The ordination of 60-year-old Pedro Mang-ohan in Hapao in July by five of the oldest Ifugao *mumbakis*, all in their late 80s, was one of many that had quietly transpired in the Cordillera in the last two years, Hafalla was told.

"Ironically, the *mumbakis* are surfacing in very modern towns. For example, Banaue (home to the world-famous rice terraces) hosts more *mumbakis* than very rural Hapao, where older rice terraces still stand unchanged by tourism," he said.

"These urban towns are closer, but you can see more *mambunongs* in Baguio than in Kabayan, the roots of the Ibaloi culture. They go to a *mumbaki* or they practice the *baki* (rite or prayer) because of hardships in life, because of poverty. People spend more in hospitals, (so they are encouraged) to go to the *mumbakis*, instead of spending for medicine. That's one reason the *mumbaki* is again very strong."

Hafalla stressed that villagers on the outskirts of the Cordillera have long debunked common arguments about the *cañao*'s "unreasonable expenses."

"The way I understand their arguments is that chicken in the area is just there for the picking. You don't really pay for (the chicken, if you use this for a ritual they all believe in). If you have hogs, you actually breed them for the ritual also. In fact, a single canned meal is worth a whole live chicken to them there, so you will understand the real economics (dictated by) their rituals there," he said.

Most villagers undergo rituals these days to guide their planting season and their collective decision-making as economics bears down on individual commerce.

Cultural renaissance

According to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the poverty incidence rose from 31.8 percent in 1997 to 34.2 percent in 2000, although the Cordillera statistics indicate an improvement. Families must now earn P6,958 a month to meet all their basic minimum needs.

Poverty incidence has doubled in urban areas, like Metro Manila and Baguio, where one of every five Filipinos lives in poverty today. This information reflects situations, which may explain the *mambunong* and *mumbaki* resurgence in populated urban Cordillera towns.

But the real renaissance in poverty-stricken Cordillera is of indigenous religions.

Hafalla said the three-week documentation of Ifugao by De Guia's crew netted them "never-before-seen" footage of a birth ritual, a death ritual and Mang-ohan's ordination, which all represented a full cycle of indigenous Ifugao lifestyles. These are lifestyles that academicians have long thought to be extinct.

De Guia was aiming to document the annual Ifugao ritual called *luw-ah*, which a village undertakes after every harvest. The feast includes a series of *pu-nuk*, or indigenous games, which are some of the most photographed rituals in Ifugao.

"(But the Mang-ohan ritual) was the most spiritually striking moment in my 20 years of documenting the social and historical nuances of Ifugao and the Cordillera. I was (dumbstruck) by the fact that these events meant that the old Igorot is still around," he said.

Five *mumbakis* from interior Ifugao villages converged under the hut of Kidlat Tahimik, where they prayed over the success of the new *mumbaki*.

Hafalla said Mang-ohan elected to be ordained under Kidlat's hut because his own hut had already been blessed by Christian rites.

"The Ifugao *mumbakis* did not want to encounter problems or debates about Christian sacrilege, so they decided to move to Kidlat's place," Hafalla said.

Each ordaining *mumbaki* was supposed to represent eight Ifugao deities of a mythological pantheon, although Mang-ohan's ritual sought the blessings of only five Ifugao gods: Maknongan, the superior sky god, and the lesser demigods Kabunian, Kabigat, Banawo and Binway.

Mang-ohan was standing in the middle of a circle, bordered only by four *mumbakis* placed strategically near the hut's four posts, and a *mumbaki* in the center. All five *mumbakis* implored their respective deities for guidance in a series of prayers, litanies and lyrical songs.

"Every one spoke and it was confusing to follow each of their prayers, but I realized they each responded to the prayers of their colleague. It was like they were answering their neighbor's prayers," Hafalla said.

The ritual took up half a day, beginning at 7 p.m. and ending as the sun broke the following day. Meat and rice wine, called *baya*, were abundant, due in part to the *luw-ah* festivities. The *mumbakis* stationed two butchered pigs toward the south of the hut, two *kubils* (indigenous chicken coops), and a spear that faced the east.

Mang-ohan, a married man, undertook a different ordination ritual called *makibag-ow*. The common ordination ritual, blessing a single or unattached *mumbaki*, is called *li-yah*.

Mang-ohan was obliged to dance with the five *mumbakis* at the end of a prayer ritual. Hafalla was told that unmarried *mumbakis* normally stay still within the circle in a typical *li-yah*.

"The *makibag-ow* does not give Mang-ohan new powers, because he is chosen only after he had revealed his psychic abilities. Instead, it asks for sufficient guidance from the gods so he can help more people throughout Ifugao. It had more of a social context, instead of a religious one," Hafalla said.

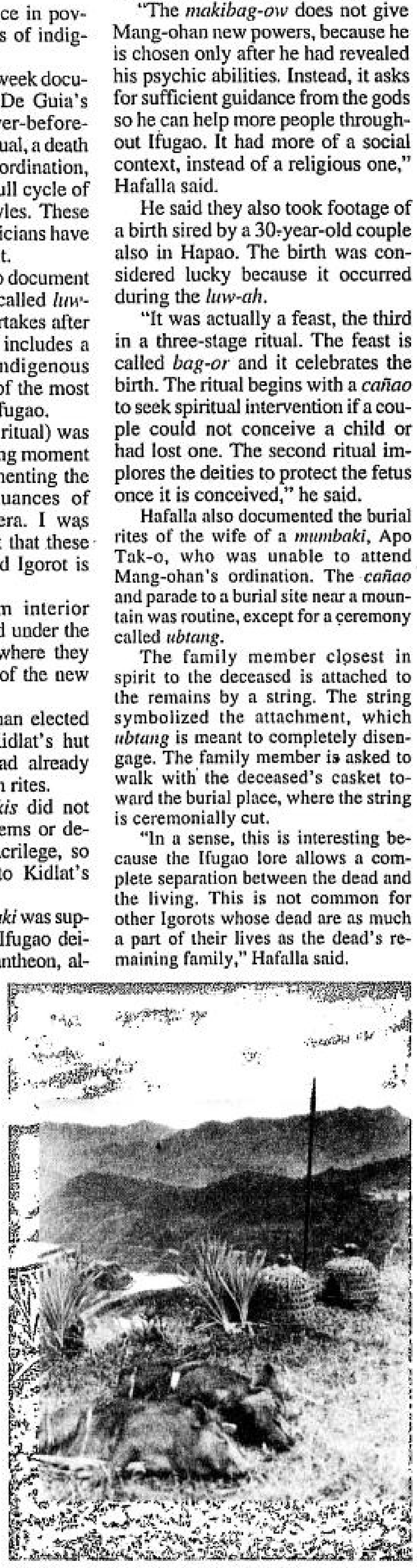
He said they also took footage of a birth sired by a 30-year-old couple also in Hapao. The birth was considered lucky because it occurred during the *luw-ah*.

"It was actually a feast, the third in a three-stage ritual. The feast is called *bag-or* and it celebrates the birth. The ritual begins with a *cañao* to seek spiritual intervention if a couple could not conceive a child or had lost one. The second ritual implores the deities to protect the fetus once it is conceived," he said.

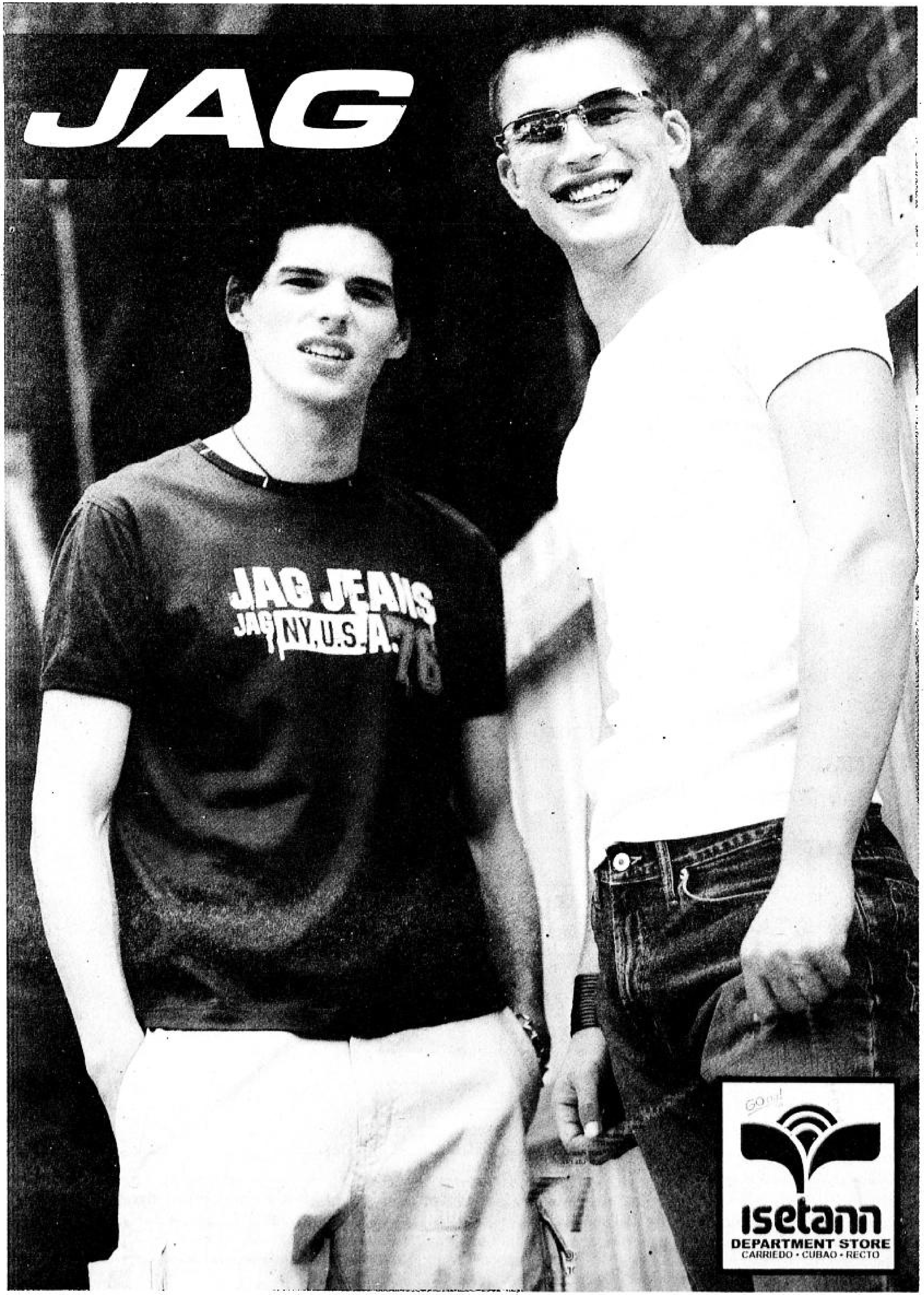
Hafalla also documented the burial rites of the wife of a *mumbaki*, Apo Tak-o, who was unable to attend Mang-ohan's ordination. The *cañao* and parade to a burial site near a mountain was routine, except for a ceremony called *ubtang*.

The family member closest in spirit to the deceased is attached to the remains by a string. The string symbolized the attachment, which *ubtang* is meant to completely disengage. The family member is asked to walk with the deceased's casket toward the burial place, where the string is ceremonially cut.

"In a sense, this is interesting because the Ifugao lore allows a complete separation between the dead and the living. This is not common for other Igorots whose dead are as much a part of their lives as the dead's remaining family," Hafalla said.



RITUAL animals for a "mumbaki" ordination.



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Pinoy overseas workers talk about sex, STDs

BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

THE SESSIONS were revealing, as the just-returned, land-based male overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and seamen talked candidly, and without malice, about their sexual experiences abroad. Or simply what they saw and heard.

The 42 OFWs and seafarers were all from Northern and Central Luzon, and the focus group discussions (FGDs) were held in San Fernando City, La Union, and in Quezon City. The FGDs were conducted by a group led by Dr. Florence Macagba Tadiar for the Women's Media Circle Foundation Inc.

The project seeks to protect the health of the OFWs and their families, prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), like HIV/AIDS, and come up with a survival kit for men and women OFWs.

Cause for concern was the low use of condoms among the land-based workers and the seamen whose ship had just docked.

Very few among the workers used the barrier method, which is known to protect against AIDS and other STIs. One respondent tried it once, and never again. Another immediately dismissed it ("*walang kuwenta*") without having tried it.

One land-based worker came up with a farfetched simile: "You cannot feel that you are inside a woman if you use it, like eating a banana without the peeling."

Commented another, "*Hindi ako* (I am not) satisfied (with the method)."

Some seafarers, however, always used a condom and, in fact, would avail of the free condoms in the ship. Or the women they went out with would bring condoms and place these on their partners.

But the other men simply refused, believing they would not be infected through sexual transmission.

Unprotected sex

After unprotected sex, usually with a stranger, the men would be bothered or restless ("*hindi mapakali*"), fearful of being infected and transmitting the disease to the family, guilty or unable to sleep. They would feel ashamed and, as well, concerned about the expensive drugs that may be needed.

A few reported feeling some droplets in their briefs, feverish, and the sensation of crawling lice.

They would just wash their genitalia thoroughly or with alcohol, take antibiotics (before and after sex), have a checkup, be philosophical about the whole thing, or practice withdrawal later on.

Attitudes toward extramarital affairs and prostitution ranged from the moral ("*pangit tingnan, masama* because a person is married") to the permissive: "The man is satisfied and the woman makes money, and she also needs sex"; and ". . . you do not go abroad for the women, but it's difficult to avoid them if you are away from your family."

The FGDs also touched on practices and beliefs at the workplaces, providing glimpses of the dark side of foreign cultures.

In Taiwan, abortion is rampant and legal. In Saipan, children aged 12-13 are seen in the plaza soliciting and engaging in sex. Prostitution is outlawed in China, but transactions are done discreetly.

In Cuba, there are jailed Filipinos whom no one visits or writes to. But Cuban girls are beautiful and they like Filipinos "because we are good in loving them and generous with money."

You can be penalized for just looking at a woman in Saudi Arabia. If you are with a woman and cannot produce a marriage certificate, you will be jailed immediately. Australians look down on Filipinos ("*mababa ang tingin sa Pilipino*").

And in Japan, some parents bring their teenage daughters to the club, write requests on paper napkins and then, after the band finishes performing, leave the girls in the care of the entertainers, who will do what they want with them.

The men seemed to have an adequate knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and how to prevent these, although they did not always practice what they preached. AIDS was correctly perceived as incurable, while gonorrhea "is the easiest to cure."

Some of the seafarers said that daily they would hear about someone being infected—"*tulo*" being the most frequently heard report. ("*Tulo ang pangkaraniwan nang nababalitaan doon.*") But this depended on the port: "*Sigurado sa* (a sure thing in) Indonesia; *madalas sa* (often in) Bangkok, India, Brazil."

What to do

Should they be infected, what would they do?

The respondents said they would seek the help of co-workers "with experience," close relatives and friends ("not your wife!"). As a last resort, they will report their condition discreetly to the office or to the clinic, or inform their chief mate at once, so that only he and the captain will know. "It's their obligation to have you treated," one seaman said.

To prevent STIs, the discussants pointed out, one should avoid having multiple partners ("you cannot identify an infected woman"), be faithful to your spouse, "*huwag gagamit ng babae*" (do not have sex with a woman), endure your sex drive ("*tiisin mo*"), divert your attention to something else ("*iligo mo sa iba*"); masturbate, just engage in kissing. Or "ask at the bar if the girls are new before entering."

Problems that may result from extramarital relations, according to the land-based workers and seamen, include hepatitis, the possibility of a broken home, "*sakit ng kalooban, ulo, katawan, bulsa*" (headaches, guilt feelings, physical illness and financial woes), and even blindness, deafness and cancer.

What recommendations can they make to promote their health and prevent disease?

Respondents pointed out that because of the many requirements before they left the Philippines, many necessities were not attended to, like information (such as pamphlets) about the laws and climate of the country of their destination; a seminar on how to take care of their health and on STI and HIV/AIDS, especially for first-timers; a medical checkup, which should be required of and free for all seamen, and vaccination.

Upon their return, they would like free medical and laboratory checkups; payment of health benefits; and ID card to facilitate hospitalization, purchase of medicine, and obtaining of loans; and free hospitalization by the Department of Health.

For their families, the land-based OFWs and seamen said they would like, among other benefits, educational scholarships, free medical services and medicine, livelihood and housing programs, spiritual services, and free calls ("*libreng tawag*") to them (the family).

The OFWs said they should be given more information—and more importance—by the government. The seafarers talked of human rights, unions for them, and assistance when it comes to their complaints.

The agencies, they indicated, are not doing their jobs and are short-tempered: "*Medyo galit, pinupukpok ang kamay sa lamesa.*"

The two groups recommended that they be provided materials to help them cope with their loneliness and reduce their vulnerability to contracting STI and HIV/AIDS. This may serve as a "survival kit."

The kit should include attractive and "reader-friendly" pamphlets, video cassettes with messages, posters, a packet of prayers, comics, condoms, and information on preventing pregnancy.

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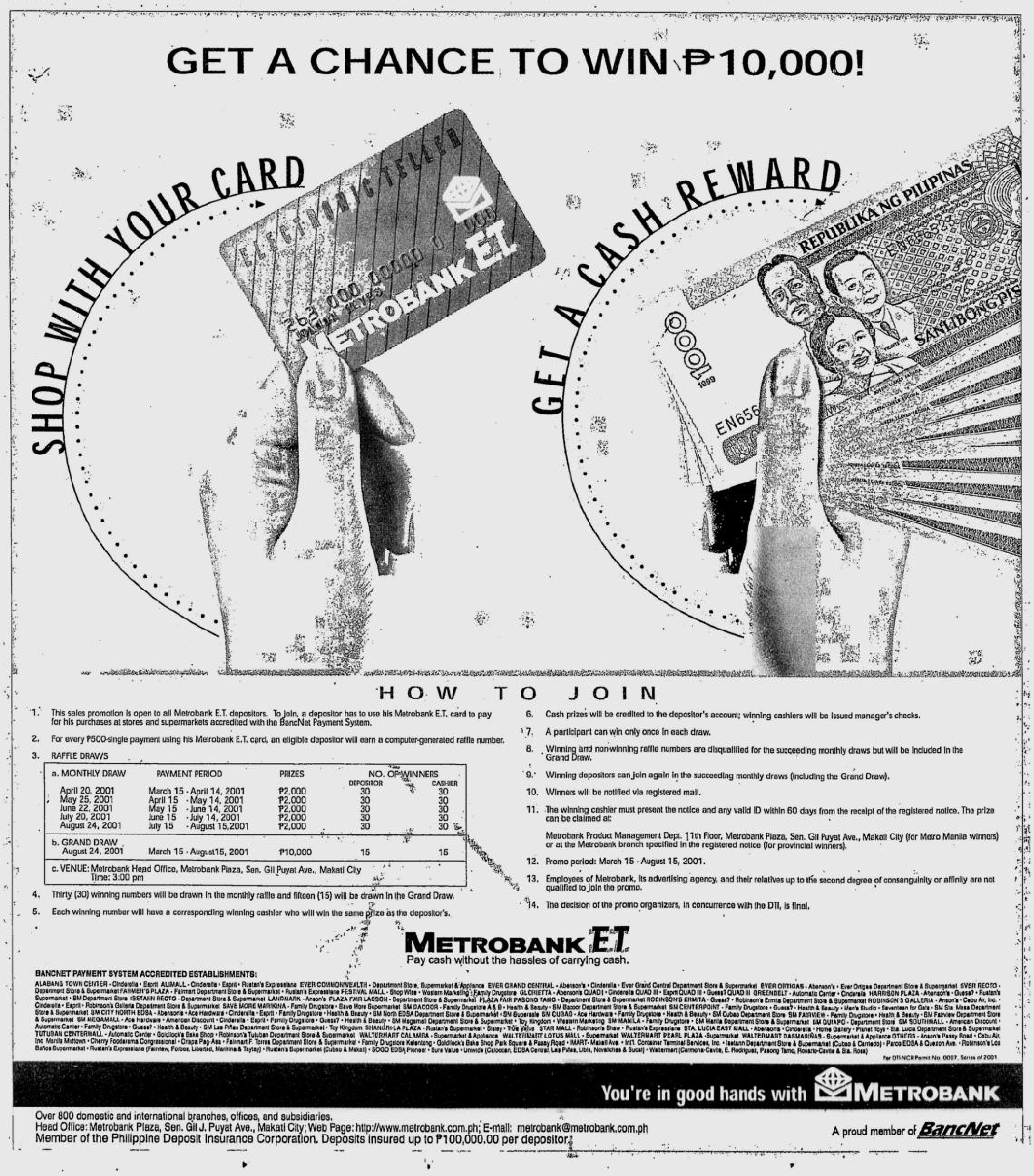

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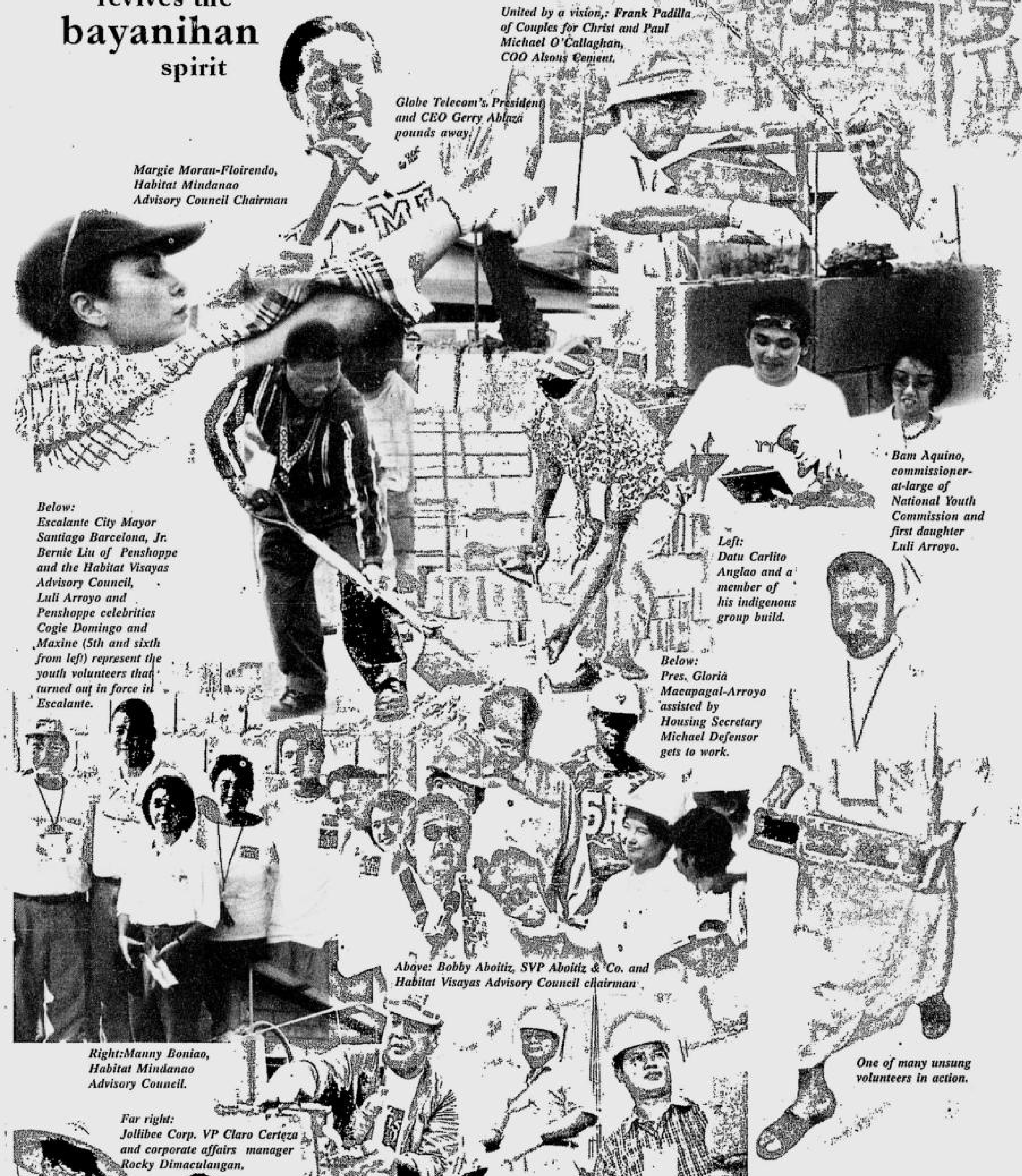


United by a vision,: Frank Padilla of Couples for Christ and Paul Michael O'Callaghan, COO Alsons Cement.

Globe Telecom's President and CEO Gerry Ablaza pounds away.

Margie Moran-Floirendo, Habitat Mindanao Advisory Council Chairman

Bam Aquino, commissioner-at-large of National Youth Commission and first daughter Luli Arroyo.

Left: Datu Carlito Anglao and a member of his indigenous group build.

Below: Escalante City Mayor Santiago Barcelona, Jr. Bernie Liu of Penshoppe and the Habitat Visayas Advisory Council, Luli Arroyo and Penshoppe celebrities Cogie Domingo and Maxine (5th and sixth from left) represent the youth volunteers that turned out in force in Escalante.

Below: Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assisted by Housing Secretary Michael Defensor gets to work.

Above: Bobby Aboitiz, SVP Aboitiz & Co. and Habitat Visayas Advisory Council chairman

Right:Manny Boniao, Habitat Mindanao Advisory Council.

One of many unsung volunteers in action.

Far right: Jollibee Corp. VP Claro Certeza and corporate affairs manager Rocky Dimaculangan.

As thousands of Filipino volunteers last week gathered to build more than 200 houses for Habitat for Humanity beneficiaries in the Philippines, thousands in over 40 nations around the globe did the same. All told, 1,755 houses for as many families were constructed during World Leaders Build, a worldwide campaign for the need to include housing as a basic human right.

In the Philippines, World Leaders Build was considered as the largest gathering of government, business, media, and civic leaders this year for social development. Over P31 million pesos in funds was raised for the event, which was launched by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Pinugay, Rizal on Aug. 6. Similar builds were held simultaneously in various sites across the country, with focus on Pinugay, Rizal; Escalante, Negros Occidental; and Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental.

Through the Habitat program, beneficiaries pay for their homes at no-profit, no-interest terms. House payments are then used to fund more houses. The cost of Habitat homes is dramatically reduced because the labor component, which can account for as much as 30 percent of the cost of a house, is taken care of by volunteers. Habitat also makes an effort to develop the communities in which the homes are located through training and livelihood opportunities.

Corporate leaders turned out in force in support of World Leaders Build, working together with staff members, to volunteer to build homes for the poor - literally. In Pinugay, Rizal, Ayala Land chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala, International Exchange Bank's Ramon Sy and Metrobank's Elvira Ong-Chan mixed cement and plastered walls. Other leaders in the private sector who were seen helping build a total of 24 homes in Pinugay were Manolet Salak, Claro Certeza, Nick Alcantara, Nick Florio, Antonio Ng, Hector Dimacali, Marixi Prieto, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Guillermo Luz, Robert Kuan, and Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq. In addition to their sweat, they volunteered financial and material resources to build homes for the needy...knowing full well that these homes would some day form building blocks for great communities.

In Escalante City, Negros Occidental, youth volunteers converged to build 30 houses for homeless famiies, some of which are victims of insurgency. First daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo and Paolo Benigno Aquino, commissioner-at-large of the National Youth Commission, led volunteers from schools and youth organizations on Aug. 8. Joining them were Penshoppe celebrities Maxine and Cogie Domingo who took a break from show business to lay hollow-blocks for the Habitat event.

In Cagayan de Oro, volunteers from various faith organizations worked side-by-side with *lumads* and members of other ethnic groups. Frank and Gerry Padilla of Couples for Christ, Rev. Ruben Cedino of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and Bishop Hilario Gomez led delegations of their members at the site. Mindanao's number one advocate, former beauty queen Margie Moran-Floirendo was also there doing what she does best: plastering walls of houses under construction as she inspired volunteers to give of themselves in fluent Visayan. Moran-Floirendo is an active member of Habitat's advisory council in Northern Mindanao and has built in Habitat sites all over Mindanao.

The weeklong activities of World Leaders Build in the Philipines was concluded by former President Corazon Aquino who turned over homes to beaming new owners in Pinugay, Rizal on August 10. Aquino returned to the country after launching the worldwide event earlier in the week with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and South Korean President and Nobel Peace Prize laureat Kim Dae Jung in Korea. Teary-eyed beneficiaries thanked Aquino, Habitat officials and volunteers who helped make their dream homes a reality.

A new hope, a new life for 265 families

Habitat for Humanity
Philippines

Above: Metrobank senior officers Chito Sobrepeña and Elivra Ong-Chan in Pinugay, Rizal.

Left: Kit and Fernando Zobel de Ayala dedicate a Habitat House to lucky homeowner Leopoldo Obong.

Below: Frank & Gerry Padilla lead Couples for Christ members in Cagayan de Oro

WORLD
LEADERS

Above: Menardo Jimenez, Habitat Advisor, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Former Pres. Cory Aquino, home partners Jason & Bilinda Alnfirañez.

Grateful homeowners Samuel and Merly Gonzalez with their children Jovelyn, Jennifer, Jocelyn, JonJon, Joey Bernard and baby JV Simon. (This photo by Mandy Navasero).

*Space donated by: Philippine Daily Inquirer, National Partner of the Habitat for Humanity

Malacañang puts gag on Corpus

(From page A1)

confidence of the President, Tiglao said: "She's confident of Colonel Corpus' leadership in Isafp as reported by both (AFP Chief of Staff) Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and (Defense) Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"We're saying that Colonel Corpus is, to emphasize, the Isafp chief. Isafp is not under the Office of the President directly."

Tiglao reiterated that the AFP was being supervised by Villanueva and Reyes.

"If there's any loss in confidence in any AFP unit, it would have to be the chief of staff first, and then Secretary Reyes would have to report that first," he said. "So far, there's no such report."

Corpus, who had earlier accused Lacson of laundering hundreds of millions of dollars, said on Monday that the senator and Wong had used the Philippines as "a transshipment point for drugs in the international market."

Yesterday Malacañang directed the military to go "all out" in the anti-drug campaign and to destroy marijuana farms and *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) manufacturing plants.

"In the Cabinet meeting today, the President ordered an intensification of the war against illegal drugs," Tiglao said.

He said military units would be used to track down and neutralize marijuana farms and *shabu* plants, some of which are located in the hinterlands.

The directive came as a result of the briefing on the drug problem that the Philippine National Police gave the Cabinet.

The PNP said that from only 20,000 in 1972, the number of drug users in the country had grown to 1.8 million.

And from being a mere transshipment point of *shabu*, the Philippines is now "a major area for *shabu* manufacturing," the PNP said.

Legal implications

Tiglao said Lacson's proposal that the bank accounts of government officials be opened to public scrutiny could pose "legal implications."

"One major point that Senator Lacson should remember is that no charge of (maintaining) secret bank accounts has been leveled at any Cabinet member or high-ranking government official," Tiglao said.

Asked if this meant that Malacañang would oppose Lacson's proposal, Tiglao merely said that it would have to be "evaluated."

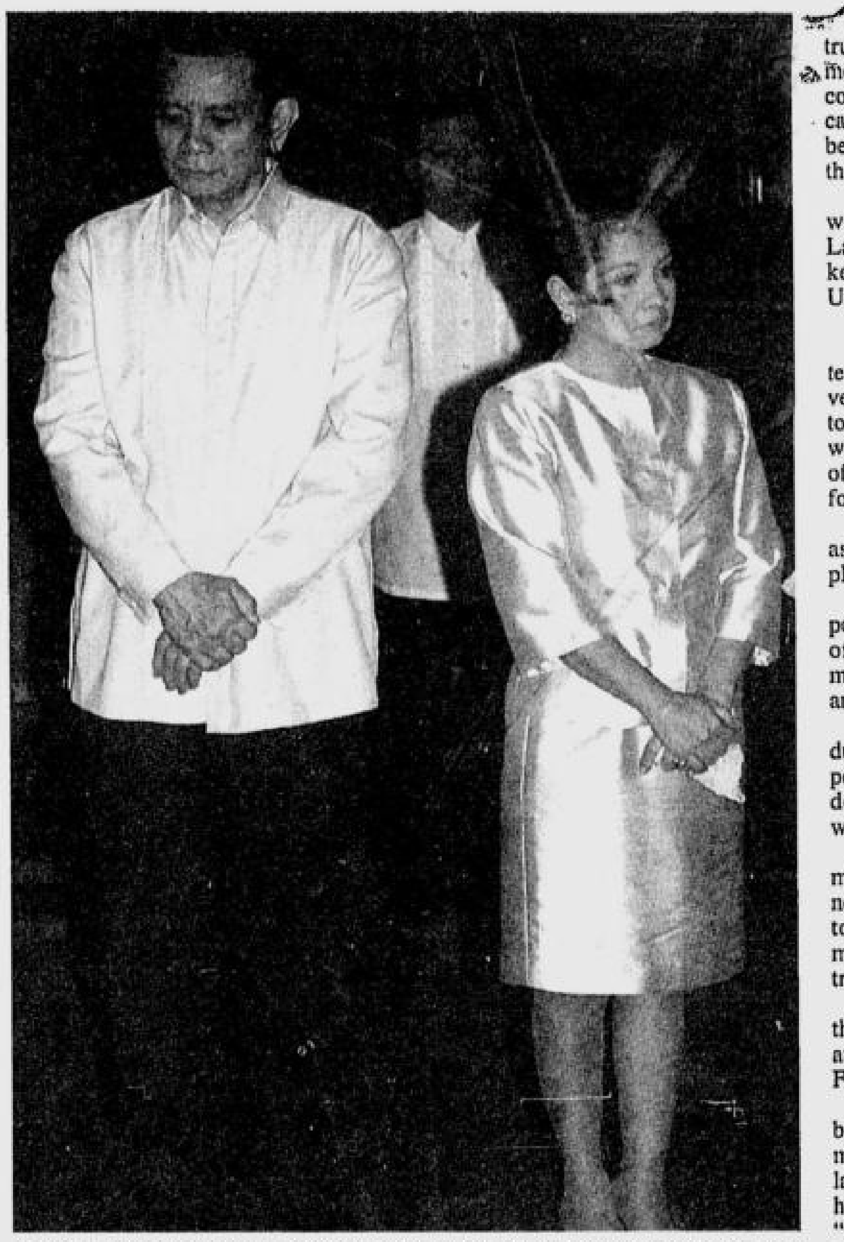
"We have to emphasize that no one is accusing (or) investigating any Cabinet member of (maintaining) secret bank accounts," he added.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez pointed out that there were certain provisions in Philippine anti-graft laws that could address the problem.

Golez warned that the Lacson's proposal could trigger a "fishing expedition."

"I think it should apply only to those who are being investigated for specific cases," Golez told reporters.

"We already have an existing one for anti-graft cases," Golez added. "The Ombudsman is given access to the bank accounts of the public official concerned, so that already addresses the problem. To open (a bank account) for a fishing expedition is, I think, something else. We should be specific about it."



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona pray before the start of the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Not retroactive

As for the anti-money laundering bill, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice, said Lacson would be spared from prosecution even if the measure were passed because it would not have a retroactive effect.

Pangilinan made the remark even as he confirmed that the passage of the controversial bill would not meet the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Financial Action Task Force (FTAF).

The senator, whose committee will conduct the public hearings on the bill, said the legislative process would hamper the passage of the measure drafted by the technical panel composed of justice and finance officials.

But he denied that the Senate's preoccupation with the yet to be started investigation on the allegations against Lacson would contribute to the delay in the passage of the measure.

"In the Philippine setting, Lacson would not be covered by the anti-money laundering law," Pangilinan said when asked whether the measure would apply to Lacson if investigation showed grounds to press criminal charges against him.

"Criminal laws don't have a retroactive effect here. That's against the Constitution and due process," Pangilinan said.

"Assuming that the allegations are true, Lacson could be held liable for money laundering under US laws and could be prosecuted in US courts because the anti-money laundering law has been in effect in the United States since the 1970s," he said.

Pangilinan also said "other laws" would apply to the prosecution of Lacson, who, according to Corpus, is keeping secret bank accounts in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong.

US evidence

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday ordered National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco to submit evidence from US authorities, which allegedly confirmed the existence of at least two bank accounts in California of Lacson and his wife Alice.

Desierto sought the evidence even as Wycoco was preparing graft and plunder charges against Lacson.

The Ombudsman said he had subpoenaed the documents as part of his office's investigation of the alleged money-laundering activities of Lacson and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I have already asked the NBI to produce the documents and other evidence pertaining to the case. I expect these documents to be in my office this week," he said.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of the militant group Sanlakas, said it would not be enough for Lacson to be brought to court to face charges of plunder, money laundering, kidnapping and drug trafficking.

"Lacson should also be brought to the court of public opinion to counter any PR job by his media handlers," Fortaleza said.

"His 'Mr. Clean' projection, spun off by a well-oiled PR machinery with matching photo ops and sound bites, landed him his Senate seat and reined in his political obscurity," Fortaleza said. "Hence, it would also be in the same arena that he should be outplayed."

Fortaleza was reacting to a call by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines for the government to file charges against Lacson should it have the "goods" against him. ***With reports from Blanche S. Rivera, Michael Lim Ubac and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Court allows Erap . . .

(From page A1)

Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the INQUIRER.

"The court finds the motion meritorious. Further, the court notes that despite the lapse of several days, the prosecution has not filed any opposition to the grant of the motion," said Third Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy, chair of the Sandiganbayan third division, said in the decision he penned.

Estrada will be allowed to leave the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, and return from the prosecutors' offices during office hours today.

The libel complaint stemmed from a series of INQUIRER reports on Corpus' allegations that Estrada and his former national police chief, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, were involved in laundering drug money.

Estrada and Lacson have strongly denied they laundered drug money.

Also at the Sandiganbayan, Estrada's co-accused, son Jinggoy, filed an urgent second motion for bail. This time he did cite legal grounds but health reasons, involving mainly his heart condition.

The court had denied Jinggoy's first petition for bail.

But his lawyers yesterday found a new tack by citing an Aug. 8 letter to the court by Dr. Robert Anastacio, a cardiologist of the Makati Medical Center who warned that their client can suffer cardiac arrest if further subjected to "psycho automatic stress."

Continued hospital detention either at the MMC or VMMC can cause such stress and "is not a normal environment required by the accused's ailment (sic)," the motion said.

"The accused prays for bail not strictly because under the circumstances of the case he should be allowed bail, which is a matter of dispute and which the Court had already adversely ruled on, but as a matter of humanity," the motion said.

The Sandiganbayan disallowed Estrada, from going anywhere except the Pasig City Prosecutor's office.

Estrada was arrested April 25 on the non-bailable capital offense of plunder for allegedly amassing about P4 billion in payoffs from illegal gambling operators and kickbacks from tobacco taxes during his 31 months in office.

Lacson has said he is also considering a separate libel suit against Corpus and the INQUIRER. ***Reports by Volt Contreras and AP***

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Isafp chief had . . .

(From page A1)

celebrity as "Mr. Kim Wrong."

Reporters yesterday besieged Villaflor, whom they fondly call "Tibo," after noting that he was a spitting image of the man in the photo.

"Even I was surprised to see his image in the newspapers. Wong and Tibo look very much alike. But he is not Wong, although he also loves to wear ties," Barbers said.

Villaflor, 39, admitted that he, too, was taken aback by the close resemblance between him and the man in the photo. But he is not amused.

"The picture is blurred. It cannot be me," said the native of Cagayan province who said he had no Chinese ancestry. "It should be funny, but I am not laughing. I am scared because people might pick me up."

Villaflor called on Corpus to be "responsible" in releasing pictures of suspected drug lords.

He said that if the photo that Corpus presented had been taken from the Senate in-house video files, the man in it "could be me."

Earlier, Villaflor was also mistaken for lawyer Sigfrid Fortun, a member of then President Joseph Estrada's defense team at his impeachment trial.

Isafp visit

Lacson claimed that agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines visited Wong's house on Monday and demanded that the guards give them a picture of the businessman.

"If they have (made) such an extensive probe of my alleged drug operation, why in heaven's name were they at Kim's house asking for his picture?" Lacson said.

He promised to produce Wong if and when the Senate started an investigation of Corpus' claims against him.

Asked why Wong had so many friends from the top echelons of the government, Lacson said: "There's nothing wrong if he has so many friends. We also have our own set of friends."

Told that Wong was supposedly working as a "go between" for Chinese Filipinos in trouble with the law, Lacson said this could not be true because Wong was in the restaurant business.

"He has not lobbied for anyone. He did not ask for any favors from me in behalf of anyone," Lacson said.

The senator also said he supported the call of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines for a speedy investigation of his case.

He denied Corpus' claim that he and Wong had shipped in a total of P250 billion worth of drugs so far.

He said this would involve "a hundred tons of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride)," and "that's more than the (volume of) white sand in (the resort island of) Boracay."

Friends

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday joined city officials in defending Wong from Corpus' allegations.

"If he is indeed a drug lord, then he should be arrested. But that's not how I know him," Atienza said in an interview over radio dzRH.

He said Wong was an acquaintance of his.

On Monday, Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna also said he knew and played tennis with Wong, and even dined at the businessman's Seafood Wharf restaurant.

Lacuna said over dzBB that he had known Wong since the businessman's lean years and could not imagine him being a drug lord. He said Wong started a garment business that later became successful.

Last April at the height of the campaign for the May elections, then Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, a former mayor of Manila, said a friend of Atienza's named Kim Wong was included in the police watch list of suspected drug lords.

Lim said Wong was introduced to him by then Vice Mayor Atienza when he himself was campaigning for mayor in 1995. He admitted that Wong even donated T-shirts for his campaign.

But to Lim's consternation, Atienza claimed that it was Lim who had introduced him to Wong.

Atienza also said that as interior secretary, Lim should have taken the necessary steps to apprehend Wong if he really was a drug lord.

Wong later denied that he was the Kim Wong on the watch list. The exchange of words died down after the May 8 elections. ***With a report from Jerome Aning***

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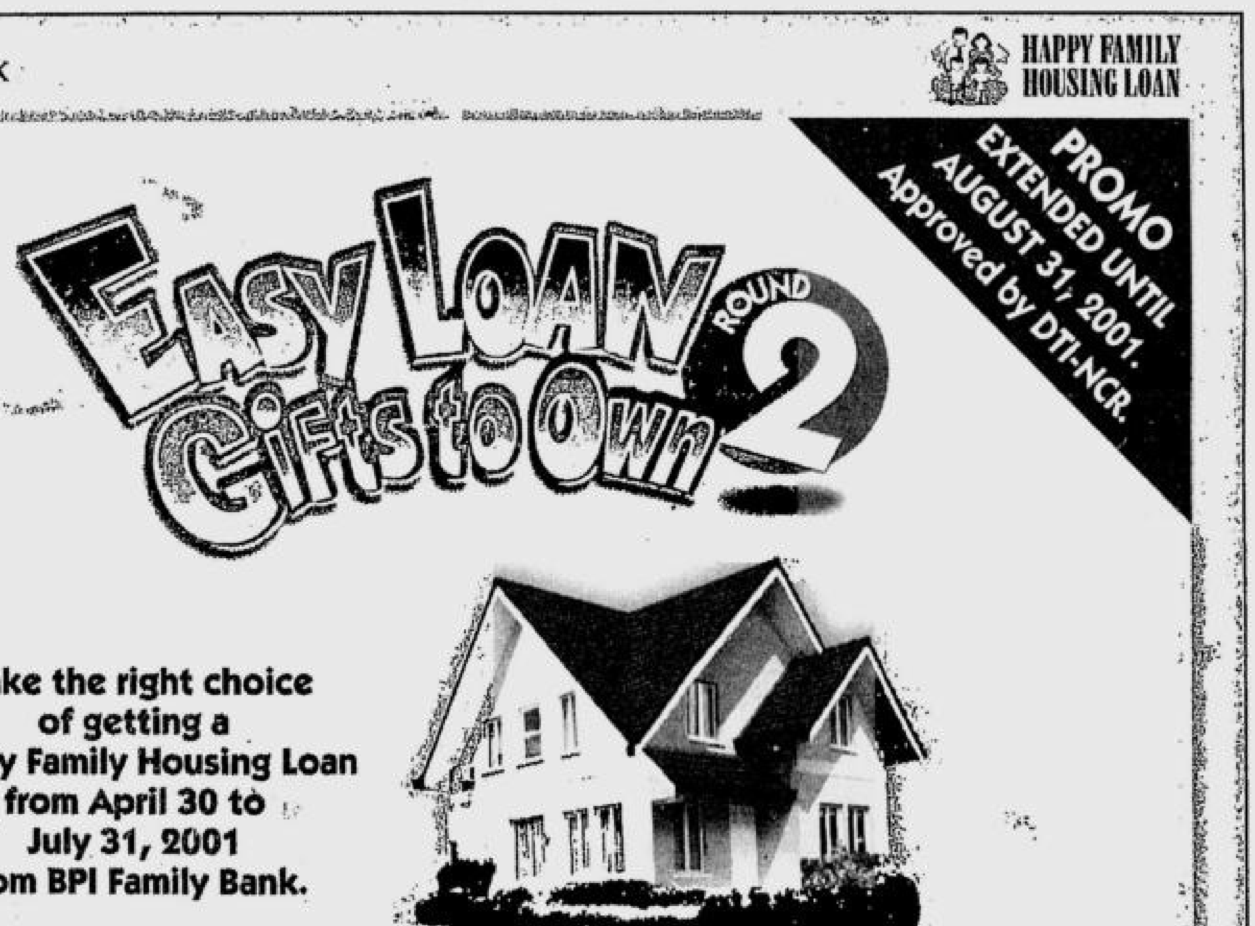

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Low voter turnout marks plebiscite for bigger ARMM

(From page A1)

the ARMM, but whether we vote yes or no, we will remain under this corrupt and rotten autonomous setup," said a government employee, who asked not to be named.

Nori Unas, provincial administrator, said thousands of voters in flooded communities failed to cast their votes.

Callar earlier said voting centers in flooded areas would be clustered, but radio reports said many precincts did not function as poll officials could not reach public schools where the voting was to take place.

"The instruction about clustering came too late," said an election officer in Kabuntalan town.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said voting in the six provinces and five cities under his unit's jurisdiction "was so peaceful that not a single incident of election-related violence was reported."

More than 3,000 integrees of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), who were earlier reported to be planning to disrupt the balloting, were performing their usual duties, Ando said.

Where are the voters?

A public school teacher serving as member of the board of election inspectors in Cotabato City said "it's tiring doing nothing, waiting for people to come . . . unlike in the recent elections."

"It's already 11 o'clock and yet, only two voters cast their votes," a teacher in Barangay Tamontaka, Cotabato City, said.

In Davao del Sur, elections supervisor Pedro Reganit said about half of the 349,000 voters in the province cast their votes.

Rep. Douglas Cagas said he was confident that as in previous plebiscites, the people have voted no. "There is no reason for us to be included in another region," Cagas said.

Gov. Reynerio Llanos said residents of Davao del Sur were better off in Southern Mindanao.

Besides, he said, "peace and order is determined by economic development and not whether a province is under the ARMM or not."

Even MNLF members in Davao del Sur shied away from their precincts.

Alex Mampao, vice chair for political affairs of the MNLF's Seratan Davao State Revolutionary Committee, said their non-participation was more than the question of whose side they are with.

"We feel it is difficult for us to perform our duty as voters for an event we do not fully understand," Mampao said.

MNLF members identified with ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari earlier said they would boycott the plebiscite because it violated the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

"This is not a question of whether we are for Misuari or not, but the question of what we believe in. For us, the plebiscite violated the peace agreement and nothing more than that," Mampao said.

But Prof. Abhoud Syed Mansur Lingga, chair of the Bangsamoro People Consultative Assembly, said the low turnout could indicate that nobody believes in autonomy.

"The law was approved long ago and there were even public hearings conducted. During the all-out war (between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front), it was one of the political packages offered to the MILF, so there was discussion. We could safely conclude that people are aware of the law," Lingga said.

He said the preparation by the Comelec was enough. "It just so happened that people had no interest in it. If people were interested, they could have initiated their own campaign for yes or no," Lingga said.

Peaceful

In General Santos City, election registrar Abraham Nilong said the despite the low turnout of voters, he was glad that no untoward incident happened.

Nilong said only 45 to 50 percent of the voters participated in the plebiscite.

He said his office could not be blamed for the low turnout, pointing out that it had conducted a massive information campaign at least one month before the plebiscite.

He said people were not as interested as during the regular elections where candidates hold campaign sorties and give dole-outs.

Even the Namfrel volunteers did not participate, he noted.

Rey Sumalipao, election supervisor in Lanao del Norte, noted a "very low" turnout in the province.

Sultan Taha Sarip, the Sultan of Pualas in Lanao del Sur and professor of the Mindanao State University, said many residents in his town did not vote because they were never satisfied with the ARMM's governance.

Lanao del Sur is already part of the ARMM.

In Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay, the plebiscite was considered peaceful. Voters' turnout was low because of the recent flash floods that hit the provinces.

Cases of voters' disenfranchised voters were reported in Pagadian City and in other towns. But election officials said the cases were negligible.

Comelec Commissioner Resureccion Borra, who was accompanied by Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, police chief for Western Mindanao, in his visit to Pagadian yesterday, described the plebiscite as generally peaceful.

Teopisto Elnas, Jr., election chief in Zamboanga del Sur, said the voting in areas affected by flood went on smoothly. He placed the turnout at only 50 percent.

Wilfredo Balisado, election officer of Zamboanga Sibugay, blamed the low turnout on bad weather, especially in the towns of Buug, Siay, Imelda and Diplahan.

In Zamboanga del Norte, provincial election officer Borromeo Patangan also cited the flash floods and continuous rains, and the people's lack of interest in the result.

In Zamboanga City, at least 60 percent of the city's 300,000 voters participated in the plebiscite.

Helen Aguila-Flores, Comelec director for Western Mindanao, described the conduct of the plebiscite as peaceful.

The "No" vote was expected to win overwhelmingly in the predominantly Christian city of Zamboanga.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat said "this is truly a victory for the people of the city who worked hard to have Zamboanga excluded from the ARMM coverage."

Lobregat's son, Rep. Celso Lobregat, said Misuari's failure to produce positive results as ARMM governor was the main reason the rest of the cities and provinces do not want to be under the autonomous setup.

But the lawmaker said the turnout would have been higher if not for reports circulating that some rebel groups were planning to disrupt the exercise.

In Basilan, Aguila-Flores said heavy rain affected the delivery of election paraphernalia and teachers, especially in the island barangays.

"We might also expect delays in the retrieval of the election materials, especially the returns from different island barangays because of the big waves," she said.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the Basilan-based 103rd Army Brigade, said "the conduct of plebiscite is peaceful, although we observed (a) high alert status."

Esperon gave assurance that ongoing military operations against the Abu Sayyaf has not affected the plebiscite because "we deployed one company from the 10th Infantry Battalion to secure affected towns like Lantawan."

Soldiers of the 18th Infantry Battalion were also tasked with securing the plebiscite in Lamitan and Tuburan towns.

Palace reaction

Malacanang, which campaigned for a yes vote, last night said the result should be respected whatever it would be.

"Follow the results of the plebiscite," Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, said when asked what would happen if the no vote prevailed.

Ermita noted that the President personally campaigned for wider ARMM membership when she visited Marawi City on the eve of the plebiscite.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimim Sema and other local officials have also staked their positions by campaigning for ARMM expansion, he said.

But Ermita said one important question for the Comelec was what number would be considered as basis for declaring the winner.

He also said thousands were stranded at the Zamboanga city wharf and were unable to go home to Tawi-Tawi or Basilan. He said it was up to the Comelec to determine whether such would be considered a situation that will justify a failure of the plebiscite.

Though the results have yet to be known, Ermita said Malacañang considered the plebiscite a success because no incidents of violence marred the exercise.

Misuari

In Zamboanga City, ARMM Governor Misuari said he should not be faulted for the consequences the plebiscite would bring.

Misuari, in a telephone interview Monday night, said he should not be made responsible if certain groups would react negatively to the results of the plebiscite, adding that President Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisers are to blame if skirmishes follow the referendum.

He also said residents of Mindanao should not blame the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which helped broker the 1996 peace accord.

The plebiscite, he said, was "a clear violation" of the 1996 agreement. *Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Alexander M. Young, Allan A. Nawal, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jonathan F. Ma, Hernan P. dela Cruz, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Lullie A. Micabalo, Julie Alipala-Inot and Alexander M. Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Juliet Javellana in Manila*

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GMA okays Clark sports complex

By June Navarro

TUASON

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason yesterday said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo instructed him to create a task force that would spearhead the construction of a multi-billion sports complex at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City.

The task force, Tuason said, would include the work force of the DILG, DND, DOTC and DPWH besides the PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee and the local government of Angeles City.

He added the ad hoc committee would be formed and mobilized immediately after the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September to plan the creation of the sports complex in time for the 2005 SEAG the country will be hosting.

"We have to make a study right after we have gone to Malaysia. From there, we will pattern its construction with Malaysia's sports complex and trim it down to our level," said Tuason.

Priority, he added, would be given to swimming and track and field, which he proposed to be housed in a 20,000-seater stadium.

Pampanga government officials expressed delight in the idea, saying the lahar-ruined area could once again open its arms to business investors besides making it the sports hub of the country.

"We are amenable to the idea. In fact, we are set to tackle it in our provincial board meeting," said Pampanga board member Yeng Guiao, Red Bull's head coach in the PBA.

He added presidential son Mikey Arroyo, Pampanga's vice governor, has already sought the endorsement of President Arroyo with favorable reactions. "The President's approval will be needed. We needed her support to push this through," said Guiao.

Yet, even if the Chief Executive turns down the idea, Guiao said there's still a pressing need to transfer the facilities from the antiquated Rizal Memorial Sports Complex to a larger venue.

Nat'l taekwondo kicks off Aug. 18

PHILIPPINE Taekwondo Association's biggest event—the 24th Milo National Championships—will be held Aug. 18-19 with more than 2,000 jins vying for honors at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The opening ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday with PTA Chair Patricio Lim, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Philippine Sports Commission Chair Carlos Tuason, Philippine Olympic Committee President Celso L. Dayrit, former DILG Secretary Rafael Alunan and Korean Embassy officials as guests of honor.

According to PTA President Robert Aventajado, competition will be conducted in six divisions, namely, senior men and women, junior men and women and grade school boys and girls.

PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong says the tourney will showcase the progress of taekwondo here with the participants displaying various styles and effective techniques in pursuit of medals in different weight classes.

Taekwondo is a regular sport in prestigious international events such as the Olympics, Asian and Southeast Asian Games and local meets like UAAP, NCAA, SCUAA, PRADA, National Games, Palarong Pambansa, AFP Olympics and Milo Little Olympics.

PTA school, provincial and military chapters from all over the country will be represented.

Among these are DLSU, UP, ISM, Ateneo, San Beda, Assumption, Don Bosco Makati, LSQC, UST, La Salle Greenhills, UE, Letran, Paco Catholic, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Pampanga, Bulacan, Batangas, Palawan, Taytay, Cavite, Laguna, Cotabato, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Zamboanga, General Santos, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Leyte, Dumaguete, Tuguegarao, Army, Air Force, Navy, PMA, Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and PNP. Martial arts enthusiasts and sports buffs are invited to witness the two-day competition, which starts at 9 a.m.

PBA refs deserve pat on the back

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR years, PBA referees have never enjoyed popular acceptance, but last Sunday at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum they won the respect and confidence of the discriminating basketball crowd with their fair and satisfactory officiating.

Referees Ernesto de Leon, Augusto Ramos and Mario Montiel are deserving of a pat on the back for making the calls nearly spotlessly clean during last Sunday's nerve-frazzling Game 1 of the ongoing PBA Commissioner's Cup.

"The calls were satisfactory," said coach Yeng Guiao after his never-say-die Batang Red Bull Thunder upset heavy favorite and defending champion San Miguel Beer, 80-78.

"I'm hoping that the referees maintain this same level of excellence in Game 2," added Danny Espiritu, who manages several famous players in the play-for-pay league. "They did their job well in the championship opener." Game 2 of the best-of-seven title series will be played tonight at the Philsport Arena in Pasig City.

Of late, one will notice that the fans have started to come back, proof enough that the Philippine Basketball Association is no longer losing its once powerful grip of the masa. Last Sunday's sellout crowd established this fact.

Established, too, last Sunday was the fact that may fans have started to switch loyalty (especially during the late stages of that classic encounter) by rooting for Batang Red Bull showing that the George Chua franchise is fast becoming the new darling of the crowd and living up to its billing as the team of the masa.

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Jetsports series ends at Waterfront Beach

TOP riders face the moment of truth as the 2001 Petron National Jetsports Series culminates this weekend at the Waterfront Beach in Subic.

Joey Mantolino, president of the organizing Jetsports Association of the Philippines, is extending the invitation to other prospective riders who wish to join the races.

As an incentive, JSAP is waiving the membership fee for prospective new riders and will only be charged a registration fee of P1,500.

Race director Sonny Yalung designed a challenging track for the championship round which is expected to be a tight showdown between back-to-back titlist Paul del Rosario and Carlo Baltao who will be disputing this season's much-coveted Rider of the Year award.

Del Rosario, gunning for an unprecedented third straight crown, leads the series with a perfect 360 points while Baltao is just 12 points behind with 348.

With points doubled for this final leg sponsored by Petron Corp., SBMA and WG&A Super Ferry, 1998 champion John Dee and last year's top rookie James Baltao could still pull upsets along with equally strong contenders BJ Ang, Ben Sun Que and Pagadian City bet Rene Pamaran.

Dee is third overall with 329 points while Baltao is fourth with 318 points, respectively.

Manila split games

KALAMAZOO, Michigan—Team Manila split its two-game opening assignments in the Big League Girls' Softball World Series Monday at the Wilson Field here.

The Maynila Golden Girls bested Antelope Valley of California, 3-1, but yielded to Southern Maryland, 4-1, in the other game played two and a half hours later.

With their 1-win, 1-loss record, the Filipinas shared second place with Puerto Rico and San Antonio of Texas. Defending champion Michigan, Michigan District 9 and Maryland lead the field by sweeping their doubleheaders.

Assistant coach Rolly Malaguit steered the Golden Girls in the absence of head coach Filomeno "Boy" Codinera who was unable to join the team when it left Manila on Saturday.

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PGA Buick Open, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: 21st ABC Championship for Men, Second Round at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (r), Semifinal # 1 at 7:30 p.m., Semifinal #2 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

WNBA - Washington Mystics vs New York Liberty at 8 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN

BILLIARDS: 2001 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship, Women's Semifinals at 9 p.m. (r) on ESPN

10 YEARS AGO

TEAM captain Dave Stockton picked Ray Floyd and Chip Beck instead of recently crowned PGA champion John Daly to complete the 12-man US Ryder Cup team competing against Europe's best golfers. Stockton said Daly "doesn't have experience."

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	49	.585	—
Boston	65	51	.560	3
Toronto	55	63	.466	14
Baltimore	49	69	.415	20
Tampa Bay	42	77	.353	27 1/2
Central				
Cleveland	65	52	.556	—
Minnesota	64	54	.542	1 1/2
Chicago	57	59	.491	7 1/2
Detroit	48	68	.414	16 1/2
Kansas City	48	70	.407	17 1/2
West				
Seattle	85	33	.720	
Oakland	68	50	.576	17
Anaheim	62	56	.525	23
Texas	52	66	.441	33
National League				
East				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	65	52	.556	—
Atlanta	64	53	.547	1
Florida	59	58	.504	6
New York	54	64	.458	11 1/2
Montreal	49	69	.415	16 1/2
Central				
Houston	67	51	.568	—
Chicago	66	51	.564	1/2
St. Louis	62	55	.530	4 1/2
Milwaukee	49	66	.426	16 1/2
Cincinnati	48	69	.410	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	72	.385	21 1/2
West				
Arizona	67	51	.568	—
S. Francisco	66	52	.559	1
Los Angeles	65	53	.551	2
San Diego	57	60	.487	9 1/2
Colorado	49	68	.419	17 1/2

COMPLETE RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 1
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Houston 8, Chicago Cubs 5;
St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 2;
Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 0. AP

Marave, Bumgarner assert superiority

ROSARIO, Batangas—Pepon Marave and Lee Bumgarner asserted their superiority in their respective categories, even as Demvel's Enterprises claimed its fourth win in the seventh leg of the Shell Super Karting Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Marave outlasted Manuel Mayo and defending champion Philip Alvendia in the third and final heat to capture top honors and become the first karter to win three legs this year.

The 35-year-old mainstay of Demvel's Enterprises, who also ruled the second leg on March 18 and fifth leg on June 10, clocked 13:33.561 in the 16-lap race organized by Carmona Circuit Philippines in cooperation with Shell Helix, Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

Finishing second in this event also sponsored by Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Nokia, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Demvel's and Eastway Racing was Mayo, who had a time of 13:33.892.

Equally impressive was Bumgarner, who posted his third straight win in the Demvel's-sponsored Formula 125 and Rotax Challenge, over second-leg winner Bert Neuhof, Pekka Sallinen, Juha Roiha and Rolen Paulino.

Bumgarner, who also dominated the fifth leg on June 10 and sixth leg on July 29, had a fast time of 13:21.984 against Neuhof's 13:25.139 and Sallinen's 13:35.468.

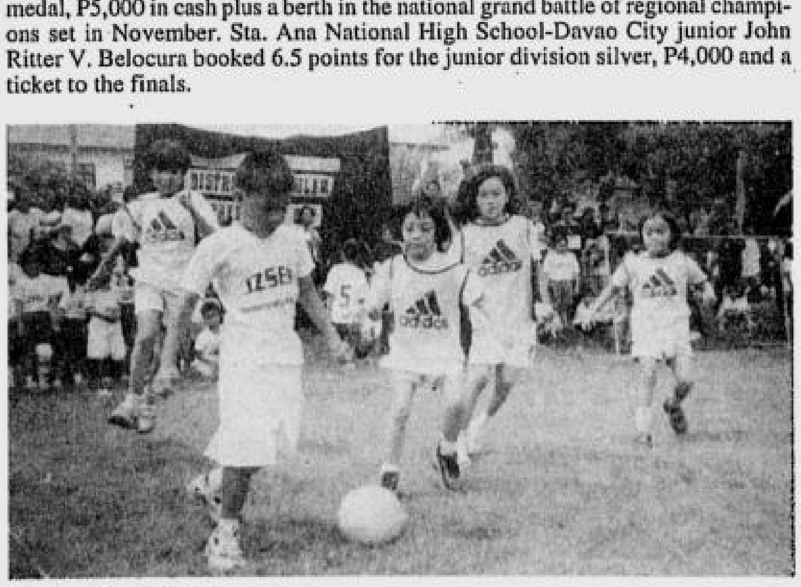
SPORTSWATCH

Pascual barges into netfest final

BAGUIO—Chaya Pascual of St. Louis University routed Grace Maxwell, 8-1, then outlasted Grace Atos, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, to barge into the final of the junior women's 21-under division in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 over the weekend at the Burnham Park claycourts. Pascual's SLU teammate Jan Thomann whipped Cesar Lagera, 8-3, before edging SBC's Borgs Solpico, 0-6, 6-3, 7-5, to set up a semifinal contest with Bedan Emerson Ocampo, who ousted Moner Bailon 6-1, 6-3 in the junior men's 21-under bracket. In the unisex 10-under class, Manila's Akio Sy downed Chynna Mamawal, 8-3, and Nikki Antolin, 8-5, to gain a championship match with Jaime Mamawal of Don Bosco-Tarlac, an 8-3 victor over Joselito Cortez.

Secondary students top active chess

TWO high school students went unbeaten in seven games to rule their respective divisions in the 2001 Shell National Active Chess Championships-southwestern Mindanao leg at the University of Mindanao-Bolton campus. Senior Jayson B. Salubre of Carmen National High School whipped the opposition to take the gold medal, P5,000 in cash plus a berth in the national grand battle of regional champions set in November. Sta. Ana National High School-Davao City junior John Ritter V. Belocura booked 6.5 points for the junior division silver, P4,000 and a ticket to the finals.



EARLY BIRDS

Kasibulan Chair Juan Miguel Romualdez had his wards (in photo) play in a football tournament in pursuit of his pioneering Kasibulan 6-12-year-old football program dubbed Adidas Predator Cup recently in Masbate, Masbate. The countryside-based project aims to produce future football stars.

Padi's Mindave OTB opens

PADI'S Mindave Restaurant Bar at the corner of Mindanao and Conal avenues in Quezon City recently opened an off-track betting staticve horseracing fans. To celebrate its launching, popular band Parokya ni·ill have a live performance tomorrow night where free San Miguel draft tbe given to patrons. For details, call 453-0080, 453-6648 and 414-4930

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

RED BULl UP

SMI eyes equalizer

By Mar Anthones

GAME TO'hilsports)
7 p.m. – San vs Red Bull
(G

LANG: The better import in Game 1.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

AS FAR as Yengo is concerned, Batang Re has managed to crack Sanel Beer's bread-and-butter p game in the opener of their f-seven series last Sunday.

But if you will ask Jonp, it was just a case of a botched endgam

Fans get to validate lay when the defending champion Beer for an equalizer against the Thunder it of their PBA Commissioner's Cup ionship at Philsports.

"I don't think they (Beill try to move out of their comfort zone t," said Guiao, referring to SMB's delibf-court game based on post-up games bn like Danny Ildefonso or Danny Seigh Johnson.

Still, Guiao said he exhico to make key adjustments on who will execute. "If you are coming from a loss, you really have to make those adjustments," he said.

But he said San Miguel would probably employ the pick-and-roll or the quick switch to alleviate the pressure on Ildefonso, who wasn't able to score in the first half of Game 1 because of Devonn Harp's superb guarding.

That single-coverage on Ildefonso not only caused the 2000 MVP to shoot 4-of-11 from the field but also limited him to just three assists, three short of his average.

Danny Seigle took the cudgels from him but he likewise didn't click as he had difficulty matching up against Mick Pennisi, who confined him to a 4-of-16 shooting, including that possible game-tying drive as time expired in Game 1 last Sunday.

But Uichico refused to dwell on that aspect and instead blamed their faulty handling of the endgame where they wasted a five-point lead (78-73) with only three minutes left.

"We can't win if we lose that kind of lead just like that," said Uichico. "We used to hold on to leads strongly till the end. But I credit Red Bull for fighting for it."

San Miguel was ahead by 10 points at the end of the third quarter until Red Bull chipped the lead away through Antonio Lang, who also overshadowed his counterpart Nate Johnson.

"Nate is also lacking in championship experience compared to Tony Lang," said Uichico. "That shows in the way he fell into foul trouble early in the game (he got his fifth in the third quarter)."

But Uichico stressed that San Miguel will come out stronger after the 80-78 loss in Game 1. In four of the seven times the franchise lost Game 1 of a best-of-seven series, it went on to lose the championship.

Meanwhile, Ildefonso, SMB assistant coach Art dela Cruz and Mike Mustre were slapped a total of P40,000 in fines for their unsportsmanlike conduct during Game 1.

Ildefonso and Dela Cruz approached game officials after the game instead of heading straight to the dugout as league rules require. They were contesting the non-call on Seigle's final drive.

Dela Cruz incurred P10,000, while Ildefonso was meted P20,000 for also inciting the crowd, who threw debris onto the court. Mustre was fined P10,000 for berating the referees on the way to the lockers.

RP 5ff for Jones Cup tilt

THE PHILIPPINES, repry a mix of the FedEx-Laguna Lakers anYouth, leaves for Taipei today to particwhat could be the toughest Jones Cup st years.

Even though defenampion New Zealand begged off to deitle this year, the 24th William Jones Custill one powerhouse cast, led by the Russians and Canadians.

Korea, Honduras, SoutMongolia and host Chinese-Taipei complete the compact eight-team cast which organizers feel is the best ever assembled in history. The Philippines begins its campaign against Canada tomorrow at 6 p.m.

"This is what Philippine basketball needs—exposure to the best of the world. I am confident that our players, particularly the members of the youth team, will become better cagers after their Taiwan experience," said sportsman Bert Lina, the Lakers owners who has given his all-out support to the national team.

Ranidel De Ocampo, Patrick Tiongco and Rolly Menor are the youth players joining the team which will have FedEx president Angelito Alvarez as delegation head.

"This is a win-win situation for the players. The experience of playing the Russians and the Canadians is tantamount to a yearlong exposure in the Philippines. I think our campaign there is a very positive thing," said coach Johnny Tam.

LBC-Andok's KO tiff today

By Roy Luarca

GAME TODAY:
5 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Andok's San Juan

THE LBC Batangas Blades are not about to let the Andok's San Juan Knights shame them at home again. Especially now that a stint in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase championships is on the line.

Twice beaten by the Knights at the Sentrum De La Salle Lipa, the Blades struck back, 77-69, at the San Juan Gym on Sunday to force today's 5 p.m. decider in their best-of-three semifinal series at the Sentrum De La Salle Lipa.

The Knights took Game One, 94-82, on Friday, duplicating their 89-63 dumping of the Blades on July 29 at the Sentrum in the elimination round.

The Blades have four players averaging in double figures with 2000 MVP Romel Adducul putting in 16.5 points in the first two games. Alex Compton follows with 15 points per game, Jeffrey Sanders 12.5 and Eddie Laure 10.5.

Knights Bruce Dacia and Chris Calaguio are lighting up the charts with their averages of 22.5 and 20 points, respectively, but none of their teammates could produce in double digits.

Adducul and Laure have also been dominating the boards against the taller Knights with 11 and 10.5 rebounds, respectively, compounding San Juan coach Philip Cezar's woes.

For Batangas coach Nash Racela, it's more of conditioning the Blades mentally. They have fallen twice to the Knights at home and they must erase these from their memory to gain their first finals appearance in the MBA.

Will to win

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

YOU will your luck. Don't just let it come.

Seemingly, that was what Red Bull did in Game 1. It battled for the breaks of the game with the tenacity of a stray cat cornered while scavenging for food in the night kitchen and the result was an 80-78 Thunder victory.

The breaks were willed in the dying seconds, earning Red Bull precious free throws. Antonio Lang's two free throws with seconds remaining spelled victory for Red Bull.

Ah, that free throw again.

Had Lang missed all four charities awarded him with under a minute left, an overtime would have probably ensued. And God knows what might have happened to Red Bull in the five-minute extension. San Miguel is a known pac-man in overtimes.

Naturally, after the Thunder victory, euphoria enveloped not only the Red Bull camp but also the real buffs of the game used to seeing SMB win the big one most of the time, if not all of the time.

Suddenly, SMB the boss got beaten. In its own game yet.

Wasn't San Miguel Beer supposed to be the playoffs' Mr. Experience so that during crunchtime, it would always surface the winner unscathed?

But, hey, look what happened. Red Bull transformed from Mr. Shy Guy to Mr. Tough Guy and beat Mr. Experience in his own game: the endgame. It was a case of the student outsmarting the teacher all over again. If you've seen the film *Finding Forrester*, you'll know what I mean.

But is Red Bull for real?

A newly crowned boxing champion will only get real recognition if he wins his first defense. Thus, Red Bull needs to win tonight to make the Game 1 victory legitimate. A tall order. But here's a bet: Red Bull will win again tonight. If not, I'll lose a shirt.

■

Here's a glass once more to Richie Garcia. As promised, he has delivered the SEA Games golf budget to golf boss Rod Feliciano yesterday. Cheers to PSC chief Butch Tuason, who signed a check worth P1,167,400 for such purpose.

Case closed.

PBL teams beat Baguio cagers

BAGUIO CITY—Top PBL teams Welcoat Paints and Shark Energy Drink beat separate rivals Monday in the 2nd PBL Athletes Haven's Cup at the Baguio Colleges Foundation gym here.

The Paint Masters, the Commissioners' Cup champions, dumped the Baguio Selection, 97-72, while Challenge Cup titlist Shark whipped Gilligan's Island, 87-63.

Blu Detergent, now under head coach Tony de la Cerna, will tackle the Baguio Selection at 5 p.m., while ML Kwarta Padala collides with Shark in the 7 p.m. main encounter.

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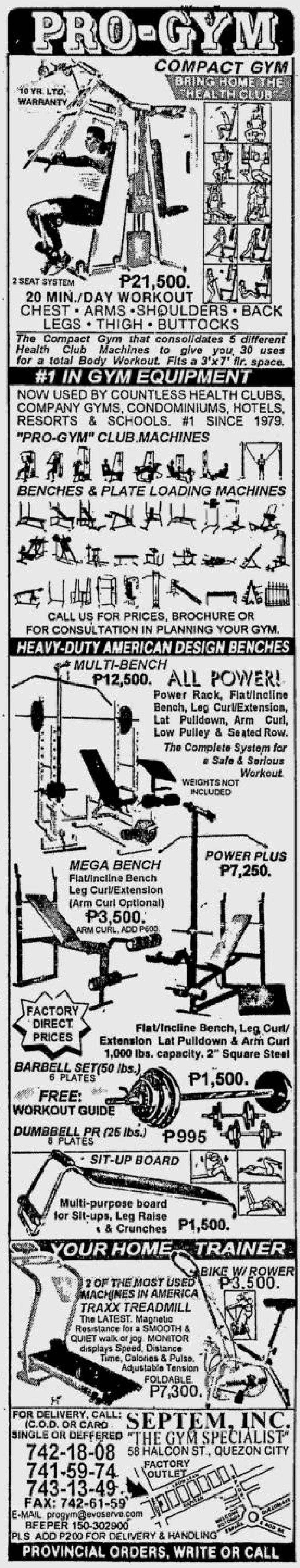

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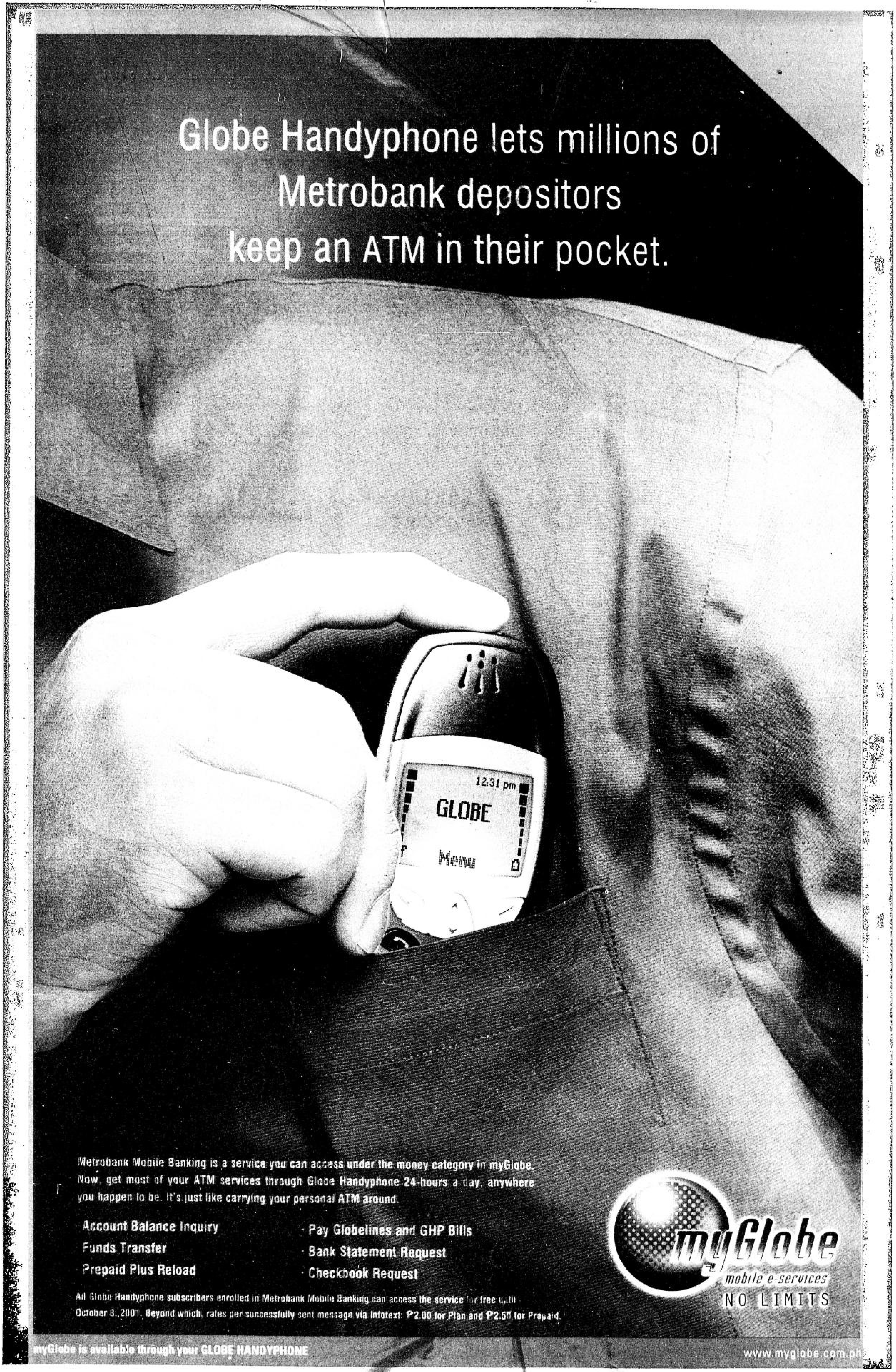

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- Mathays accused of lending P1-B land to Opus Dei school A26
- Bare Eye: 'Madame President, we're humbly calling your attention' A26
- Cop hunted for wife's slay A26

Boy, 6, beaten to death by pa over toy gun

By Agnes E. Donato

A JOBLESS man was arrested early yesterday morning for allegedly beating to death his 6-year-old son who broke the toy gun he gave the boy in Rodriguez town, Rizal.

Noel Angeles died of head injuries three days after he was admitted to the National Children's Hospital in Quezon City, police said.

His father, Dario Angeles, 38, of Sitio Sapa, Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, was arrested about 4 a.m. yesterday. He is now detained at the Rodriguez police station facing charges of parricide and child abuse before the Rizal Prosecutor's Office.

On Aug. 10, Noel was playing with the toy his father gave him when he accidentally broke the gun, said SPO1 Seferino Ayusin.

When he learned that his son broke the newly bought toy, Dario allegedly began to hit Noel until the boy fell limp, police said.

The boy was brought to a nearby hospital and later to the National Children's Hospital.

The suspect denied that he beat up the boy. He claimed Noel sustained the head injuries when the boy slipped and fell. Police are trying to find out whether the father was under the influence of liquor when he allegedly beat up Noel.

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Taguig cop killed, wife injured in shootout

By Nelson F. Flores

A POLICEMAN was killed while his wife and one of his assailants were wounded in an alleged shootout in the coastal town of Taguig, Metro Manila.

PO2 Jhonny Jaani, 32, a member of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation Division Group in Camp Crame and a resident of Maharlika Condominium, Maharlika Village, Taguig, died from several gunshot wounds while undergoing treatment at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

Jaani's wife Lilia and Mohammad Abdul, one of two men who had shot it out with Jaani, both suffered gunshot wounds in different parts of the body, police said.

Abdul's still unidentified companion escaped after the shootout, police said.

Investigation showed that for unknown reasons, Jaani apparently engaged Abdul, also of Maharlika Village, and his unidentified companion in a gun battle about 9:30 p.m. Monday in front of Jaani's house.

Jaani's wife Lilia heard the exchange of gunfire and went out of their house just in time to see her husband felled by bullets, said PO3 Alain Sigua. She tried to pull her husband to safety but a bullet also hit her.

While Lilia was being treated at the RMC emergency room, she saw Abdul being treated for gunshot wounds in another bed, and recognized him as the man who shot her husband, police said.

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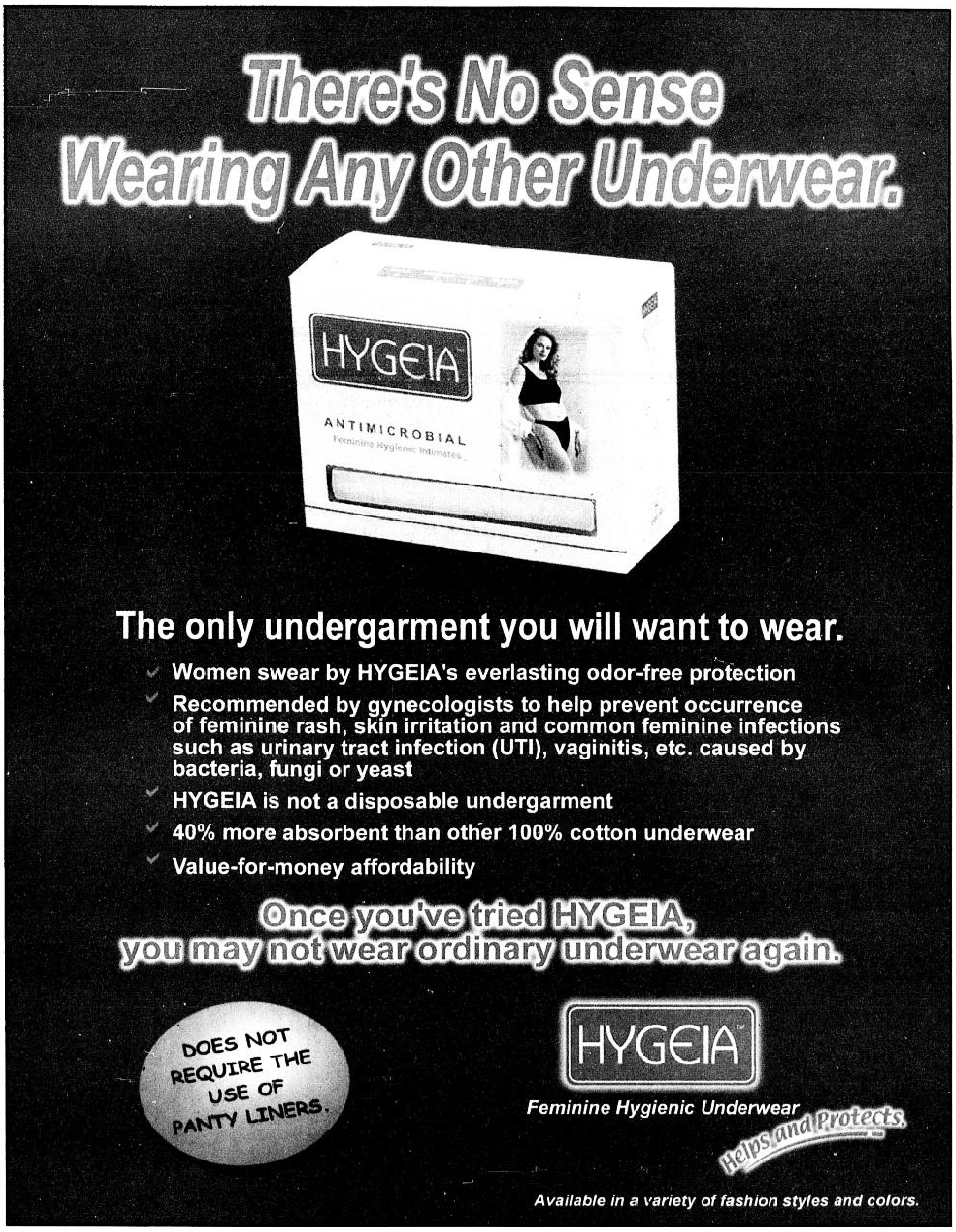
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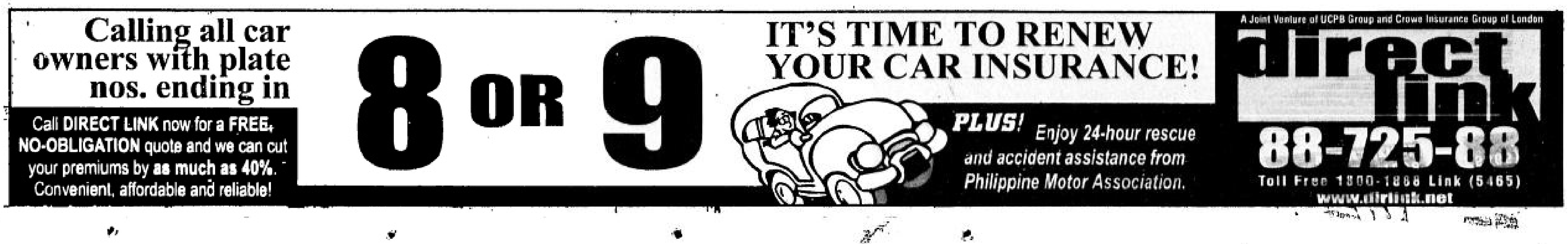
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Stopped

By Jerome Aning

THE CONSTRUCTION of a parking facility on a 6,000-square lot that is part of the historical Mehan Gardens has been stopped permanently.

In a cease-and-desist order dated Monday, Aug. 13, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez forbade the Makati City-based Park N Ride Inc from continuing to build the parking facility behind the Metropolitan Theater. The construction has reached the second floor, and would have provided 125 parking lots if finished.

Alvarez cited Presidential Decree No. 260 as amended by PD 1505, which prohibits the modification, alteration, repair or destruction of the original features of any national shrine, monument, landmarks and other edifices that the National Historical Institute has declared historical, without the NHI chair's written permission.

Mathays accused of lending P1B land to Opus Dei school

By Philip C. Tubeza

RESIDENTS of the plush Greenmeadows subdivision in Quezon City are preparing to file graft charges against the city's former mayor, Ismael Mathay, and other Quezon City public officials for approving the construction of a private Catholic school on a property worth P1 billion inside the subdivision.

They said Mathay and the previous city council gave the 3.1 hectares of open space beside the Christ the King church in Greenmeadows to the Paref-Northfield School for Boys rent-free for the next 50 years.

When the agreement expires, the city government is required to pay the school 25 percent of the property's assessed value or the school would again take control of the property for another 50 years, according to the residents.

Real estate developer Ortigas and Company had donated the lot to the city. Subdivisions are required to have "open spaces" for the recreation of residents.

Critics of the deal, led by the Coalition of Homeowners Association, said the city council's March 20 resolution approving the school construction was railroaded through the council and that there were no consultations with most of the residents who would be affected by the project.

The complainants told a hearing of the Quezon City council's justice committee on Monday that they would file graft charges before the Office of the Ombudsman if the city council does not stop the project.

"The resolution amounts to an anti-graft act since the members of the council granted a special privilege to a private entity pertaining to a public property worth no less than P1 billion at current (real estate) prices," Coha chair Peter Paul S. Bautista said in a letter to the city council.

He noted that Mathay's daughter in law, Ma. Ana Mathay, is a member of Paref-Northfield's board of trustees.

The previous city council approved on March 20, 2001 the memorandum of agreement between the city and the school on the construction of a "park with school" on the property.

Mathay's son—former councilor Ramon "Bu" Mathay —and Marcel Rillo introduced the resolution. Its other co-authors include councilors Wilma Amoranto Sarino, Vincent Crisologo, Jorge Banal, Julian Coseteng, George M. Canseco, Marciano Medalla, Eric Medina, Godofredo Liban II, Winston Castelo, Ma. Francesca Biglang-Awa, Rommel Abesamis and Jesus Suntay.

– An open letter to the President –

19 July 2001

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Malacañang Palace
Manila

An Appeal To Defend and Protect Peace and Development in Mindanao

Dear Madam President,

Greetings of peace from your fellow Mindanaoans.

Mindanao has been the center of national attention for the past months due to the serious peace and order problems it is facing. While the national government has been addressing the problem through a military solution, we feel it imperative that it also focus on the long term solution to the problem.

The poverty resulting from the region's lack of economic development has been driving Mindanaoans to the hills to take up arms against the government or to engage in crimes. **The urgent need to attain genuine and sustainable economic development is the real struggle confronting the people of Mindanao.**

We, the duly elected public officials of Mindanao, representing the interests of our constituents and communities, appeal to you, our beloved President, to address the real issue behind the Mindanao unrest by considering the interests of our people above all and by taking the necessary action to prevent increased poverty and economic disquiet in the region.

In the past administrations, two key industries based in Mindanao have already died: the steel and tire industry. Today, another key industry, the local cement industry, is seeking the intervention of government to prevent it from going the way of steel and tires. The cement industry is one of the major sources of livelihood in Mindanao. The local cement industry has uplifted the general standard of living of the people of Mindanao through direct employment, increase in local revenue and taxes of the local government units which host them, and creation of allied and other businesses in the entire region. **The presence of the local cement industry gives hope to Mindanaoans that their aspirations for economic development and ultimately, genuine peace and order, can still be realized.**

However, recent developments have been posing a serious threat to the economic survival of Mindanao, especially the various cities and municipalities dependent on the local cement manufacturing industry. The unfettered entry of imported cement has caused unfair competition to the local cement industry and has been consequently affecting the local manufacturing sector. From a market share of 1.4% in 1998, imports now corner 24% of the market. Consumers do not even benefit from imports. While imports are brought in at an average of P86 per bag, imported cement is sold retail at an average of P135-P150 per bag (the same price range as local cement). As a result, local cement companies have to cut production causing more lay-offs. If the trend is not reversed, cement plants will ultimately close plants and kilns. If this happens, our constituents and communities will all suffer gravely. This may be the last straw that will break all of us.

While our people gradually suffer the consequences of the unabated entry of imported cement, the national government is about to take a stand on how it will protect the local manufacturing industry. The local cement industry has filed an application for safeguard measures with the Department of Trade and Industry. In its application, the industry is requesting for a 200 day provisional measure of 50% tariff on the landed cost of imported cement. Please note that while the 50% on the landed costs (estimated to be P86 per bag) will only bring the price of imported cement to P129 (P5 less than the average local ex-plant price of cement), it will provide the necessary breathing space for the local cement industry to survive. Unless this temporary provisional measure of 200 days is granted, the existence of local cement industry in Mindanao may become a thing of the past.

Poverty is the best recruiter of rebels. Bandits prey on the citizens' hopelessness to attain economic progress. Let us arm the people of Mindanao with the best defense against disorder by keeping its citizens within the industrial plants and away from the hills and battlefields. Unless steps are taken to prevent an eventual closure of the local cement plants in the region, the peace and order situation will surely reach its critical stage.

We seek your aid to preserve the hopes and aspirations of Mindanao for a genuine and sustainable development and for a peaceful and orderly community by helping the local industry like the cement industry. **Peace and order can never be attained without genuine economic development.** If the economic interests of Mindanao are not protected, no amount of military operations can quell the rebellion that besieges us. We hope that immediate relief is given by the government to prevent the heightened rebellion of the impoverished citizenry of Mindanao.

For genuine peace and development in Mindanao,

CONGRESSMAN ALIPIO BADELES
First District, Lanao Del Norte

MAYOR FRANKLIN QUIJANO
Iligan City

CONG. BENASING MACARAMBON, JR.
Lanao del Sur

VICE-GOV. TEMOTIO DACALOS
Lanao del Norte

VICE-GOV. JOAQUIN DE JESUS
Cagayan de Oro City

MAYOR VICENTE EMANO
Cagayan de Oro City

MAYOR WELLI LIM
Lugait, Misamis Oriental

MAYOR ALFONSO CASURRA
Surigao City, Surigao del Norte

MAYOR JULIO UY
Villanueva, Misamis Oriental

VICE-MAYOR LUIS BONGOYAN
Davao City

MR. OLIVER ACTUB
SP Member, Misamis Oriental

MR. ARSENIO BUAC, JR.
Office-of-the-Mayor, Iligan City

(AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM MINDANAO)

'Madame President, we're humbly calling your attention'

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(GOODBYE, IDOL: Antonio Zumel, 69, was one of the few truly great Filipinos to wield the dedicated newsman's pen. He's a genuine hero and it's with genuine sorrow that we received news of his death. Tony had always treated me like a younger brother and I've always looked up to him as my *kuya*. A committed labor leader and former president of the National Press Club, Tony passed away on Monday without seeing his dream for the Filipino people realized. Of course, nobody can deny that he had sacrificed and given all, including his health and talent, in fighting for a better Philippines. My condolence to Tita Nena, Tony's sister, Gigi and all members of the family.)

* * *

FORMER Marikina City Mayor Bayani Fernando, talented, tried and tested, is not applying for a job in the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo government.

My friend Barts Mayo, the beer devotee from Lipa City who has generously lent me information on the golden feats of ex-Mayor Fernando, made this clarification. He visited me the other day to gift me with four flower-bearing trees: one *ylang-ylang* and three *champacas*. He also explained that Bayani Fernando was out of the country when that column about him was published in this space.

The former Marikina mayor, Mayo said, was in fact caught by surprise upon reading the good things written about him because he has never met the reporter who wrote the piece.

* * *

Anyway, after that item came out, I received other amazing bits about the great deeds and achievements of Mr. Fernando, whose wife has succeeded him as mayor.

My beer-guzzling informant, for example, bared that one scrambling mayor of a Southern Luzon city has very serious plans of copying Fernando's managerial style. In fact, this mayor has succeeded in placing one assistant in Fernando's engineering firm for a sort of "spying" mission.

That employee has the job of lifting information from the minutes of Marikina City council sessions which contain details of Fernando's main projects for his city.

This particular mayor, my informant added, also hopes to copy the other salient ordinances that Fernando has used in putting order in Marikina.

* * *

So why doesn't this Fernando fan just approach the former mayor directly and consult with him, I said. I think Fernando would be more than willing to share his proven expertise.

Barts Mayo, shaking his head, said the scrambling mayor obviously doesn't have the temerity to tell Mr. Fernando that she doesn't know a single thing about proper city management.

Nothing unusual there.

If we could select outright bums for president, what more with city mayors?

In truth, Barts Mayo clarified, Bayani Fernando doesn't happen to be an Erap Estrada diehard.

So where does he stand, I asked.

Erap may have bad eyes, but he's not exactly blind, he readily saw how he could make use of Mayor Fernando. He took him into his team.

But will the ex-mayor be willing to help out and work with the GMA government?

Of course, that man is a dedicated public servant, Barts remarked, he's not your idea of a politician. He has great dreams not only for Marikina but also for the Philippines as a whole.

Still, nobody has asked him to help out, I noted.

Well, he's not the sort who would beg for a position.

* * *

I thanked my friend for the visit and the blossom-bearing trees that I hope to transplant in a borrowed backyard in Lipa this weekend.

But before he left, I handed him a copy of this letter that I received after that column on Bayani Fernando came out. Please share it with me:

"I'm a housewife from Marikina, a concerned citizen. I have always prayed for peaceful changes to come to our country. I participate in rallies in my own little way, wanting to be counted among the many.

"I wrote with the hope of being heard by our admirable President Gloria M. Arroyo. Here's my message to her:

"Madame President, we all hope for good and honest people in the government. As a resident of Marikina, I'm proud to say that our city is the most awarded city in the Philippines when it comes to cleanliness, beautification, discipline and peace and order. Naturally, we are all very proud of our former mayor, Bayani Fernando.

"Unlike many other government officials, ex-Mayor Fernando is a true public servant who is dedicated in his work and in his dream to make Marikina a beautiful and peaceful place to live in. For him, it's love of God and country above his political party.

"Madame President, we the people of Marikina hope that a man like our good mayor would be given the chance to prove his best in serving not only Marikina but the whole of Metro Manila. Former Mayor Fernando, being an engineer, an achiever and disciplinarian, would be best as chair of the unruly MMDA. *Kay* Mayor, *'di puwede ang lagay-lagay*. We're sure he will solve the garbage problems and he will surely be able to discipline corrupt MMDA traffic officers. BF gets it done.

"Madame President, we from Marikina are humbly calling your attention. Please do take notice of our industrious, honest and dedicated ex-Mayor Fernando. His track record speaks for itself. He is not an Erap loyalist. It just so happened that Erap noticed his worth and asked him to join his camp.

"My love for country made me write this because I strongly believe ex-Mayor Fernando could be of great help in making the MMDA an effective agency. I hope and pray this humble letter reaches your attention. If you find time, please visit Marikina and see for yourself the beauty and discipline in our place. See our public market, our parks, our streets, our sidewalks, etc. Modesty aside, many people envy us. They would sometimes quip that they would like to borrow BF so he could run their city. Don't you think he could be of help in these chaotic times?

Respectfully,
Zeny L. Roa
SSS Village
Marikina City"

Cop wanted for wife's slay

By Jerome Aning

COLLEAGUES are looking for a rookie policeman from the Western Police District who allegedly shot dead his live-in partner at the height of a quarrel in Sta. Ana, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Raquel Kenniker, a resident of Kahilum I Street, Pandacan, suffered a gunshot wound in the chest and in the left side of the body. She was brought to the Ospital ng Maynila, where she was pronounced dead upon arrival, police said.

SPO1 Raul Olavario of the WPD homicide section said Kenniker and suspect PO1 Manuel Garcia, of the Philippine National Police firearms and explosive office in Camp Crame, Quezon City, had been living together for the past two years.

Their relationship grew increasingly stormy due to jealousy, with the suspect occasionally threatening Kenniker with his gun every time they quarreled, SPO1 Olavario said.

Kenniker left their house in Pandacan and lived with a relative in Barrio Sta. Maria in Sta. Ana. Garcia followed her, the investigator said.

The two met around 1 a.m. yesterday, only to quarrel again. At its height, the suspect pulled out his .9mm-caliber service firearm, shot Kenniker and fled.

PO1 Garcia is facing a murder charge.

Amok slain, officer wounded

AN amok was killed and a policeman was injured during a shootout in Malabon Monday night.

Mario Ignacio, 43, shot SPO1 Edgardo Malubay in the abdomen before the gunman was shot dead by another Malabon policeman, PO1 Rommel Abarro, near Ignacio's house on Labahita Street in Barangay Longos, Malabon, investigation showed.

Ignacio died on the spot. Malubay is confined at the Mary Johnston Hospital, said case investigators PO2 Peter Rios and PO2 Jorge de la Cruz.

Ignacio, said to have been heavily drunk, about 8 p.m. Monday suddenly went out on the street and challenged people to a fight while pointing his .38-caliber revolver at pedestrians, the investigators said.

Malubay and Abarro tried to pacify Ignacio but he shot at them instead. Abarro was able to take cover, but Malubay was hit in the stomach. Malubay fired back and hit Ignacio in the head and body.

Christian V. Esguerra

'BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY'

How to lose weight and find true love

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

CHECKLIST 1: Blue eyes (x), blond hair (x, but rectifiable), pleasantly puzzling face (variable), Hollywood celebrity status (x).

Checklist 2: Excess poundage (/ /) due to unwanted flab in the arms (/), waist (/), thighs (/).

Computed this way, I'm only a half or 50 percent Bridget Jones, although she's only 50 percent more than half my age (you can figure this out), which should make me wiser.

Bridget Jones, played by Renée Zellwegger, has two goals in life—lose weight and find true love. Only one of these grabs me, and it's not the one that requires interaction with another person, presuming "true" is necessarily "singular" and "single," and "of the opposite gender" in this *quest*, a word which, if you notice, needs only three other letters to turn into a "question," and another four letters to make it "questionable."

"Bridget Jones's Diary" is a phenomenal newspaper column in the British newspaper Independent that the author Helen Fielding reworked into a novel. Proving to be just as phenomenal a success, it didn't take long for the book version to become this movie directed by a woman, of course.

By "of course" I only mean that, in competent but not entirely sympathetic hands, the material stands the risk of being familiar, comic, and titillating, period, instead of familiar, comic, titillating, refreshing and illuminating, which it has turned out to be.

ZELLWEGGER

The story is about an overweight thirtysomething "singleton" who wonders why her major relationship is "with a bottle of Chardonnay," and rues the very distinct likelihood that she will "die fat and alone." After her mother's latest match-making attempt, involving an accomplished and eligible grouch of a lawyer who wears cartoon characters on his neckties and jumpers just to please his mom, Bridget inflicts upon herself the two do-or-die resolutions mentioned above.

To keep track of her progress, she embarks on journal-writing. In a line: Lose the dairy, keep a diary.

Within the confines of the movie rendition, two male species are used to illustrate Bridget Jones's thinking process, which is clouded at the start by faulty character judgment and thirtysomething hormones, if this is as acceptable an argument as it is apparent in her behavior toward Guy Number One.

Daniel Cleaver, her boss at a publishing company, is pretty much everything she has put down in her diary as a touch-him-not (THN): "alcoholic, workaholic, commitment phobic, megalomaniac . . ."

Guy Number Two is the grouch at her mom's annual turkey curry buffet cum matchmaking event, Mark Darcy. Mark is not a THN; he is just plain boring. But he looks ahead of Cleaver by a whole month's worth of showers and baths.

Poor Bridget Jones's playing field is definitely not cinematic; in fact, it is frustratingly real. Which is clearly why the girl has become an icon in this post-feminist world, next only to the composite females of "Sex and the City."

I was told, just yesterday, by a fortysomething: "Now that Aga Muhlach and Raymond Bagatsing are taken, we can all let our guard down. No more need to dress young and wear makeup." I suppose this was a way of saying let's get real?

Prince Charming is a cartoon character, and the living, titled ones are aging and/or penniless. Maybe the "right one" is anyone "suitable," "appropriate," as long as he's not totally "wrong"?

Do I deserve disapproval, alienation, crucifixion, for sticking to Bridget Jones' first goal and invalidating the second altogether? At least I never need to deal with personalities or heart murmurs, and instead have the best from around the world! When Ali MacGraw's Yoga Mind and Body failed me (more likely, when I failed it), I discovered Billy Blank's Taebo. Exhausted after a few months, I was seduced by The Five Tibetan Rituals.

Intermittently, I go back to aerobics for Latin dancing. And only this week, I found I could indulge 15 minutes daily in something else on the side, something familiar, refreshing, illuminating, and Pinoy: Arsi Baltasar's Breathing Thin.

This way I am perpetually safe from the doom of Glenn Close's character in "Fatal Attraction," Bridget Jones' favorite movie.

Everyone wants to be a millionaire

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WORK stops for a while at the INQUIRER newsroom Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights when the game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" airs on IBC 13.

Editors, deskmen, reporters, lay-out artists and copy boys gather in front of the TV set in the editorial room to answer the questions that host **Christopher de Leon** ask of the contestants.

Even INQUIRER publisher **Isagani M. Yambot** makes sure he is comfortably seated before the TV set as soon as the game show starts.

The most passionate about "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" is INQUIRER managing editor **Joey Nolasco**, who has also been very vocal about his desire to join the game show as a contestant.

Joey's voice reverberates in the editorial to remind everyone that it's 8:30 p.m., "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" is about to start and the TV selector should be turned to IBC 13.

The INQUIRER editorial staffers try to outdo each other in answering the questions, from the easy to the most difficult. They also try to outdo each other when it comes to bashing contestants. Believe me, their comments range from the funny to the cruel.

For instance, one male contestant claimed to be a nurse but he didn't know where the hamstring is located in the human body.

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire," produced by Viva-TV, is the Philippine franchise of the popular British quiz show of the same title, which has become a global success. There are other versions in Spanish, Chinese, French, Japanese and Russian.

It was amusing to see waiters in an Italian restaurant in Makati watching the show and answering such questions as "What is the ingredient of a Reuben sandwich?" (corned beef) Or "What is the name of the luxury liner in the TV series 'Love Boat'?" (Pacific Princess)

Before "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" became such a hit, when you entered a restaurant that had a TV set in the dining area, mpre often than not the TV would be tuned to the PBA games. Today, "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" holds the distinction of being the most widely watched show on TV, less than a year since it premiered on IBC 13. The unique structure of the show, plus the cash prize which the contestants get to bring home, made it an instant favorite among local viewers.

Recently, university professor **Amelita Lopez-Forbes** became the first Filipino contestant to win P1 million on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

Viva-TV general manager **Veronique del Rosario-Corpuz**, daughter of Viva's big boss **Vic del Rosario**, is delighted that the program has finally produced its first millionaire.

"But we would be very happy to give away two million pesos in every show," Veronique says.

Forbes was awarded her check at the Viva office, in the presence of Viva executives and host Christopher de Leon. She was with her American husband John.

Forbes said she intends to save part of her cash prize and spend the rest travelling with her hubby..

Rannie's second wind

WE CAUGHT singer **Rannie Raymundo**'s recent performance at Hard Rock Café in Makati. He actually did the front act for **Verni Varga**'s concert, but it turned out to be a mini-concert because Rannie sang more than 10 songs.

It had been a spell since we last saw Rannie perform live. But now that he's been making his

EVERYONE/A30

NEW millionaire Amelita Lopez-Forbes with "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" host Christopher de Leon (right) and her husband John.

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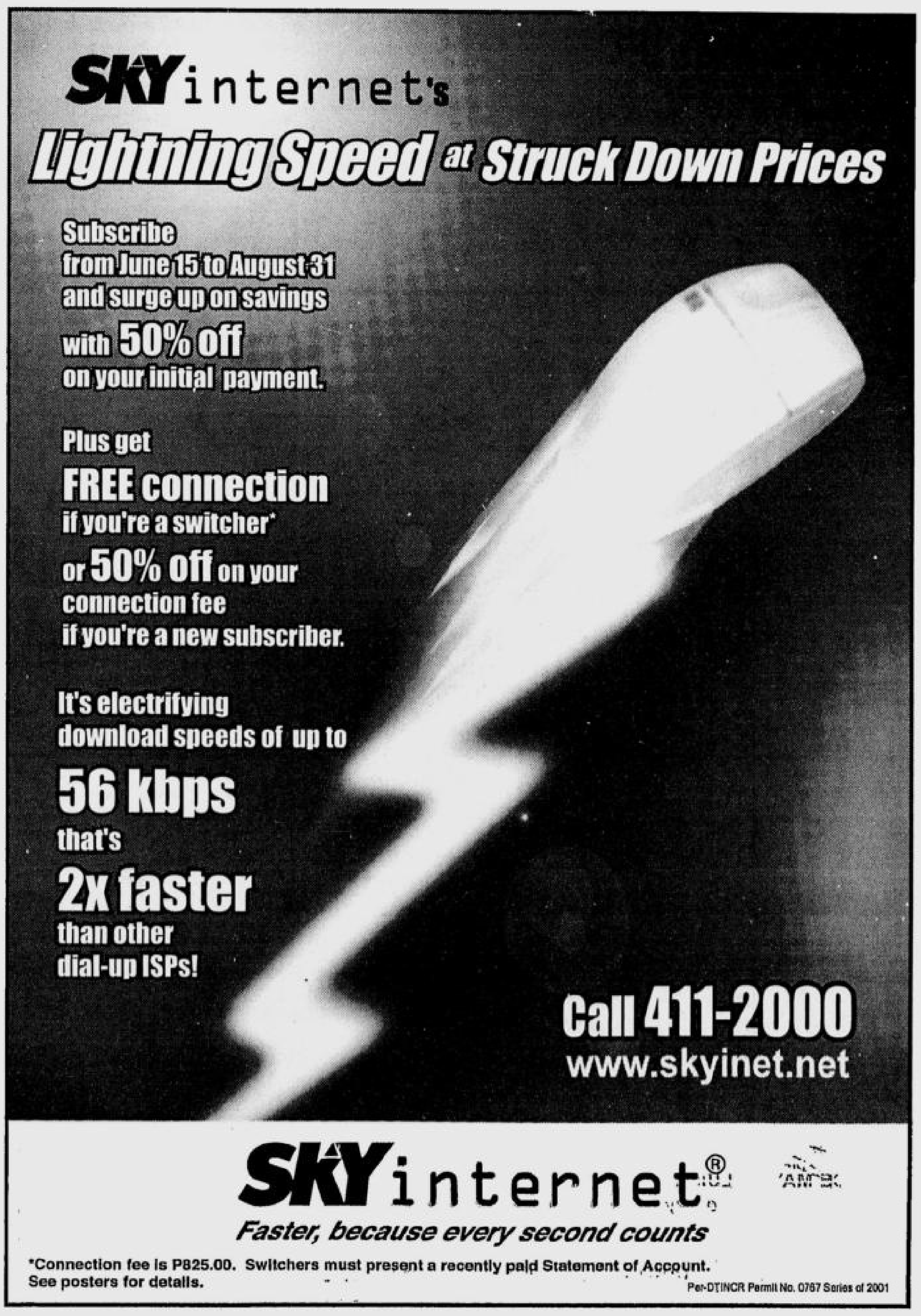
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12	VENUS

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2	MOULIN ROUGE
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6	PLANET OF THE APES
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8	STICKMEN
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7	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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9	COOL DUDES
10	PLANET OF THE APES
11	RADYO
12	VENUS

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4	VENUS

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2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	COOL DUDES
4	VENUS
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
6	THE ANIMAL
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	RADYO
10	KISS OF THE DRAGON
11	RED DIARIES
12	MOULIN ROUGE

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2	STICKMEN
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6	RED DIARIES
7	COOL DUDES
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	RADYO
10	VENUS

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3	COOL DUDES

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7	CLOSED
8	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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6	COOL DUDES

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2. PLANET OF THE APES – in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3. PLANET OF THE APES THX – in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4. A PIECE OF EDEN (Phil. Premiere) – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND – Art Film
5. STICKMEN – in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6. BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY – in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7. THE ANIMAL – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4. SCREAM, I KNOW WHAT YOU DID... – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5. THE ANIMAL – in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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6 GOLD (SDDS)
7 GOLD (DOLBY)
8 ([illegible])
9 ([illegible])
10 ([illegible])

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY)
2 (DTS)
3

Masagana CINEMA
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3

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)
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(Alabang) tel 543.4001
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8

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
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1

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1
2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
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2
3

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
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Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
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GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY)
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3
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5
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7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1
2
3
4 (SDDS)
5
6 (DOLBY)
7 (DTS)
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Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4
5 (SDDS)
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7 (DOLBY)
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Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1
2
3 (DTS)
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Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1

Dilson
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1
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(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY)
2
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4
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New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
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Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
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1 (DOLBY)
2
3

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CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
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2
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1
2
3 (DTS)

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3 (DOLBY)
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Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1
2
3

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1
2
3

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1
2
3

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1
2
3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1
2
3
4

Jade Cinema
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2
3
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5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
8	THE ANIMAL
9	COOL DUDES
10	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
3	STICKMEN
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	THE ANIMAL

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	COOL DUDES
7	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
8	VENUS

IMUS
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2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	COOL DUDES
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
5	VENUS
6	THE ANIMAL

BACOLOD
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4	CATS & DOGS
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RADYO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	GATAS / TEMPTATION NIGHT
ODEON	RADYO
ODEON-2	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
ROBEN	DUDURUGIN KO PATI BUTO MO
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	TRAFFIC / CAST AWAY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	COOL DUDES
QUEZON-1	BUKAS MAY LIGAYA
REMAR	RADYO
REMAR-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	RADYO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-7	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-12	SCREAM LAST FRIDAY THE 13TH
CINEMA-14	STICKMEN
CINEMA-15	COOL DUDES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SCREAM
CINEMA-2	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-3	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-4	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	UOD SA LAMAN
CINEMA-2	WALANG LUPANG TATAPAKAN
CINEMA-4	ITAKWIL MAN AKO NG LANGIT

Mindave observes QC Day

PAROKYA ni Edgar rocks Padi's Mindave Restaurant Bar in Mindanao Ave., Quezon City, tomorrow night, Aug. 16.

On Aug. 19, Sunday, Mindave Entertainment holds a special free concert by talented youth bands to mark Quezon City Day.

Parokya ni Edgar has produced three triple-platinum albums and one gold Christmas album.

Among the band's hit songs are "Buloy," "Halaga," "Picha Pie," "Lutong Bahay," "Tatlong Araw," "Inuman Na," "Harana," "Sayang" and "Please Don't Touch My Birdie."

For inquiries, call 453-0080 or 414-4930.

DONITA ROSE

Donita launches website

DONITA Rose recently launched her own website, www.donitarose.com, in a big event at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Designed by CD Asia's annex, the same company that created Gary Valenciano's website, www.donitarose.com will give the fans of the popular MTV Asia VJ a chance to keep tabs on what's going on with her, even if she's out of the country.

You can do this via features like text Donita, a message board that will be accessible through both the Internet and SMS.

Visitors to the site can also have their fill of features and latest news on Donita, as well as her bio, career highlights and articles written about her.

There will also be a guestbook for comments on the site.

And if you still can't get enough of Donita, you can also download one-of-a-kind Donita Rose screensavers and wallpaper, as well as banners for your desktop.

The website is Donita's brainchild. "I came up with the idea and told some people at Globe and they were very keen and excited about it. This is a tribute to my fans."

The website launch on Aug. 5 was sponsored by Globe Telecom, of which Donita is an endorser of the Gentxt.

Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management, which handles Donita's career, will also take charge of her website administration.

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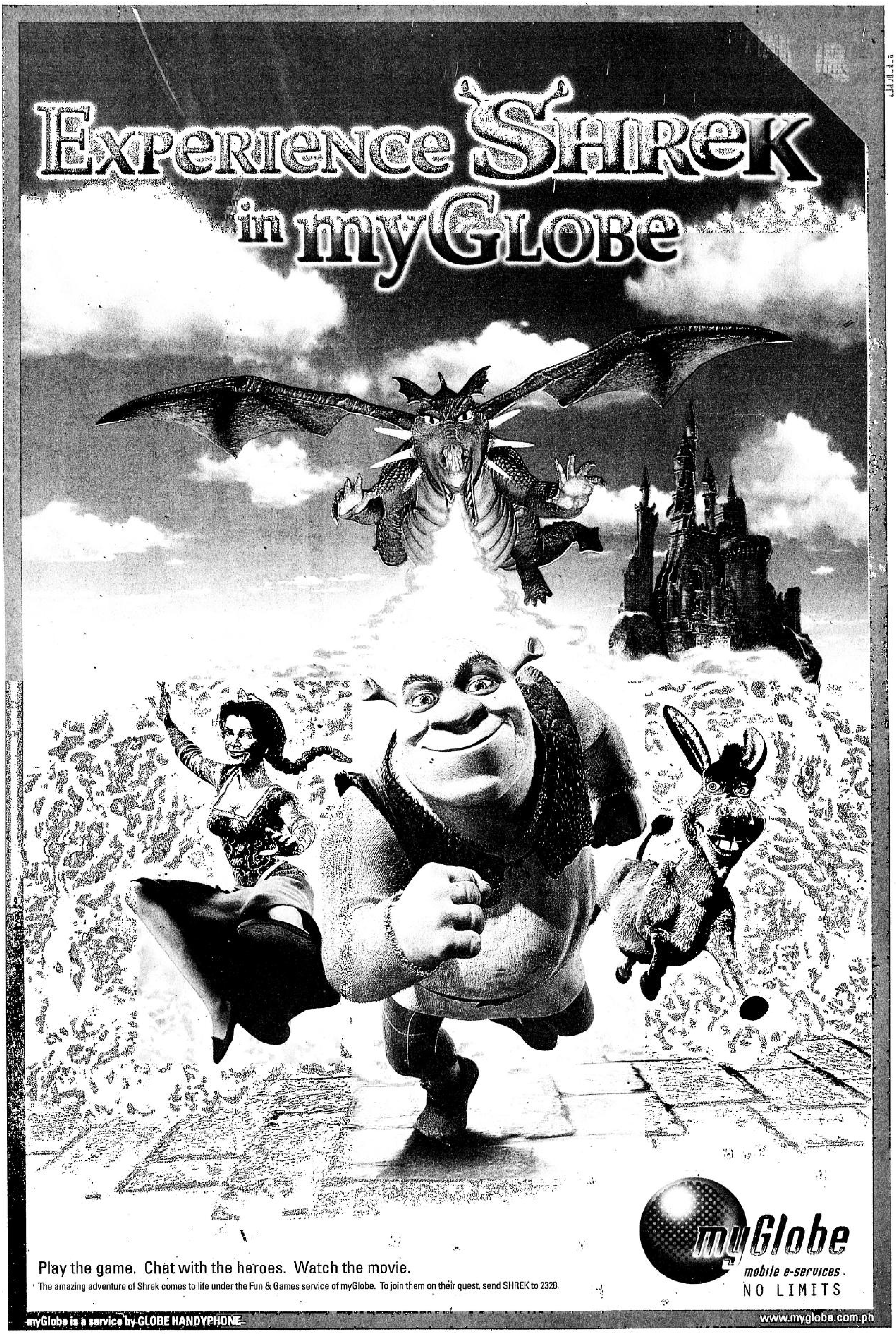

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2. The DJ shall ask a trivia question about Shrek and you'll be given four possible answers.
   Example: Princess Fiona imagines you to be her knight in shining armor and wants to be kissed. What do you do? (a) cringe (b) laugh (c) take off your helmet and scare her (d) take off your helmet and kiss her
3. If you give the right answer, you win two (2) tickets for the premiere of Shrek on August 17, 2001 at Glorietta 4, Cinema 6 at 7:30 PM.
4. Winners of the Shrek movie premiere can claim their prize at the participating radio stations starting August 16. Please bring a valid ID and your Globe Handyphone for verification.
5. Log-on to www.myglobe.com.ph for details.

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ayala

Lani is newest Crossover star

MISALUCHA

LANI Misalucha is the newest Crossover star, after her successful concert on Aug. 4 at the Grand Ballroom of Waterfront Hotel in Lahug City.

Lani was joined by guests Joey Generoso of the Side A Band and upcoming singer Malik.

Lani performed before an appreciative SRO crowd, singing her own songs, medleys and covers of popular hits.

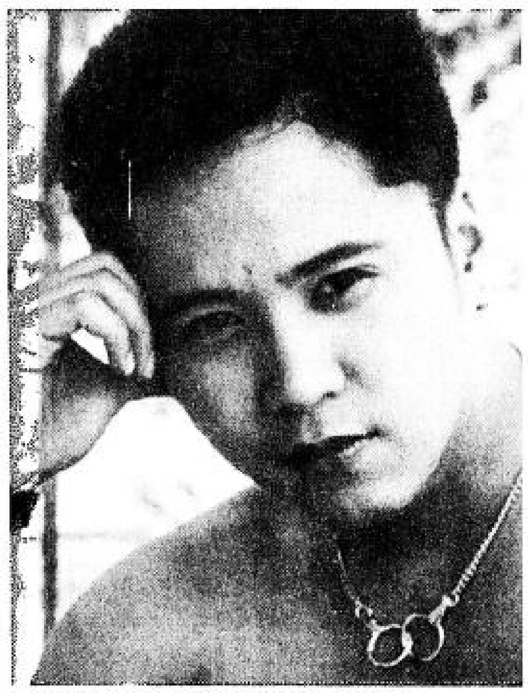
Like Martin and Jaya before her, Lani is now busy preparing for what may yet turn out to be the biggest challenge in her singing career—her first major solo concert on Sept. 8 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Lani Misalucha: The Crossover Live Tour," will again feature Joey G and Malik as special guests, with concert king Martin Nievera.

At the Big Dome, Lani will perform some of the numbers she did in the Cebu concert, like the much-applauded Whitney Houston medley. For the Manila audience, she will sing a different set of Whitney tunes. She will also do new numbers.

Lani is both nervous and excited about the major concert. She is the third local artist to be chosen by Crossover to do the "Crossover Live Tour."

"I never really thought they would choose me," Lani says. "And the pressure is really strong because it's going to be at the Araneta Coliseum. But I guess they wouldn't have chosen me if they didn't feel that I could do it. I know I have to do my best to live up to the expectations of my producers and the audience."



RAYMUNDO. Making up for lost time

Everyone . . .

(From page A27)

presence felt again, he should do more live performances.

Rannie is one of our most talented concert performers. He doesn't only sing; like **Gary Valenciano**, he also dances and plays musical instruments.

At the Hard Rock show, Rannie accompanied himself on the guitar in some numbers. He also played the keyboards and the drums.

Rannie is now managed by **Angie Magbanua**, so he is expected to be more visible in the local entertainment scene.

The dynamic performer that is Rannie could do regular gigs with a group, just like **Pido Lalimarmo**, who was the vocalist of the Artstart Band before he led Pido With Take One, one of the most sought-after live bands in Manila's popular night haunts today.

The night we watched Rannie at Hard Rock, he was a big hit with the crowd. He did mostly nostalgic tunes, such as "Make It With You," "Of All the Things," "Smiling Face" and "Never Let Her Slip Away."

He dished out a beautiful version of **Randy Crawford**'s hit, "One Hello." It was the first time we heard a male artist sing the ballad and it gave us goose bumps. Rannie has such powerful voice that gave the song a distinct flair, even if it's not his original hit.

We hope to see more of Rannie onstage. He should now make up for lost time.

Where to get Sharon's CDs

RONNIE Miranda, webmaster of the official website of **Sharon Cuneta**, www.sharoncuneta.com, pointed out to us that the megastar's latest CD, "Nothing I Want More," or copies of her previous albums are not available for purchase through her website, contrary to what we wrote in our column last Sunday.

Only sample audio clips using RealPlayer are available on the website, according to Ronnie. He added that the only item being sold so far is the Sharon Cuneta photo collage, which cannot be purchased anywhere else except through her website.

For Filipinos abroad who want to purchase Sharon's CDs and videos, you can get them at other Filipino e-stores.

The I-shopping section of the INQUIRER website, inq7.net, also sells Sharon's CDs and videos.

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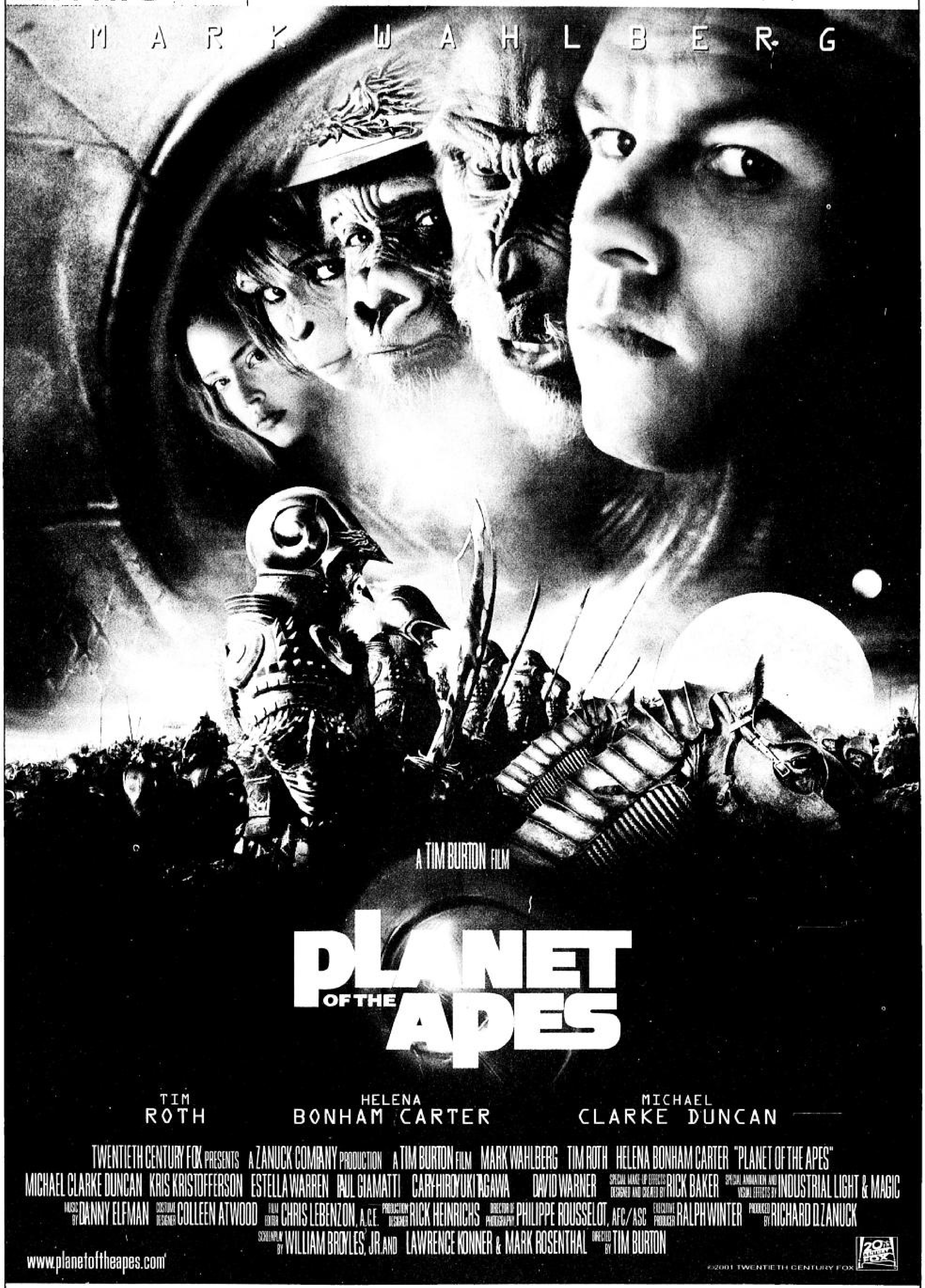

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SCREAM - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20	PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4.45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

3RD "JET LI DRAGON POWER" WEEK!
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JET LI
BRIDGET FONDA
KISS OF THE DRAGON

Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL thru COLUMBIA PICTURES

OPENS AUGUST 22!
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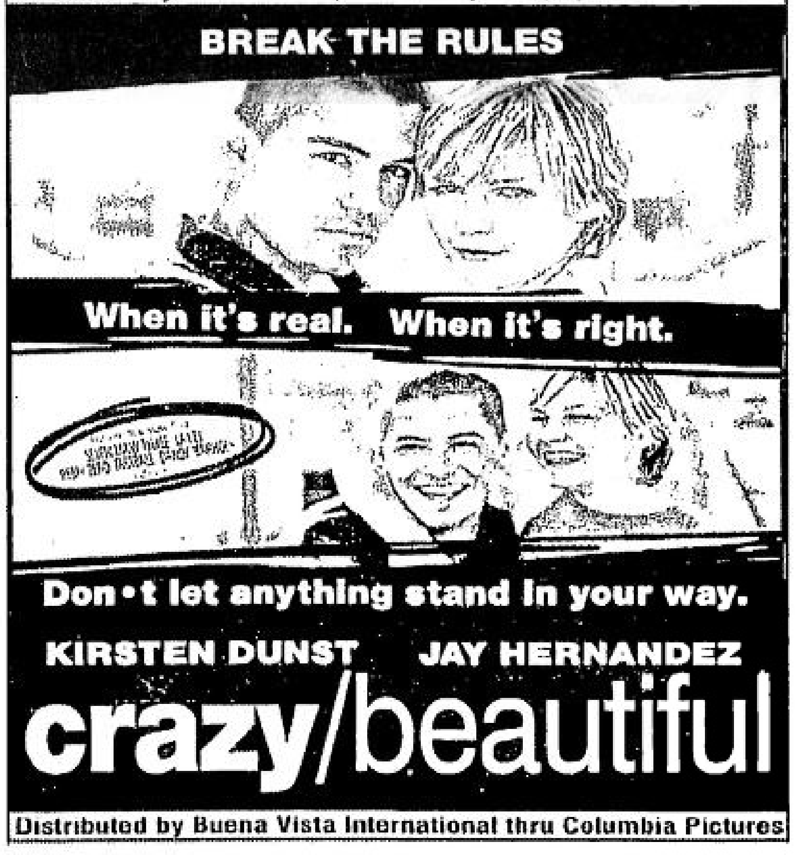
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When it's real. When it's right.
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JAY HERNANDEZ
crazy/beautiful

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What's the latest in international show biz news?

Cohost: **Whitney Houston** has just signed a $100 M recording contract!

Host: Wow, that's really huge. Do you think she deserves it?

Cohost: She does! After all, in the course of her career, Whitney has sold more than 140 albums!

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: Do you see what I'm holding in my hand?

Cohost: What is it?

Host: It's the new P10 coin.

Cohost: Hey, how about that?—what are its features?

Host: Well, it has Mabini or Andres Bonifacio on the cover.

(The coin has a cover?)

* * *

Host: Our next sports feature is unique. It's about a new and funny kind of race.

Cohost: What's new about it?

Host: It's a race in which the racers are riding landmowers!

(What in the world is a landmower?—Oh, you mean lawnmower.)

* * *

Host: Starting tonight, our show will have capsule news reports. What will we report tonight?

Cohost: Well, for tonight, we'll start it light.

Host: What do you mean?

Cohost: I mean, we will have a little of the hard news, but plus not to mention other not so hard news reports!

(What are you trying to say?!)

* * *

Host: Your best friend is involved in a controversy right now. What do you want to tell him, to show your support?

Starlet: *Pare, kaya mo 'yan.* At, *'pag kailangan mo ng tulong*, anytime, *alam mo naman*, 'andyan lang naman ako, I'll just right by!

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: When your father left you, did you have a hard time?

Guest: Oh, yes.

Host: Did anybody step into his shoes?

Guest: Good thing, the new husband of my mother was there for me. I'm very happy with my father-in-law!

(That's stepfather, not father-in-law!)

* * *

Host: What has happened to you after you came out with your accusations?

Guest: I have received death letters!

(What in the world are death letters?!)

* * *

Host: Now that you have answered your opponent's charges, what happens now?

Guest: Now the ball is in the court!

(Huh?)

'American Sweethearts'

WHEN Revolution Studios head **Joe Roth** read the script for "America's Sweethearts," he loved it so much that he decided to direct it himself. It reminded him of the great ensemble comedies of the past.

The film, scripted by Billy Crystal, is about two unhappily married film stars who must pretend to be so in love in order to promote their new movie. Catherine Zeta-Jones and John Cusack play the combative couple.

It's left up to the female superstar's sister and personal assistant (**Julia Roberts**) to bring the feuding stars together for the benefit of the press. But, what if she falls in love with her sister's husband?

Preview audiences love "America's Sweethearts" because it shows how Roberts' character is able to remain her own person, despite her being caught up in the mad, mad Hollywood whirl.

2 BETTER THAN 1. Ton Gatmaitan and Chris Tan

Reality TV from Ideal Minds

CHRIS Tan and Ton Gatmaitan are the young entrepreneurs behind Ideal Minds Corp., the latest independent television production house in the Philippines.

They have an ambitious goal—to help change the face of primetime TV with innovative, never-before-seen (in the Philippines) show formats that boast of cutting edge video treatment and editing.

Tan's broadcast media experience goes all the way back to Canada, where he successfully produced his own TV show called "Campus Television," which was shown on campuses all over Ontario. He was involved in all aspects of the show, from the administrative to the creative. Within its first year, the show already generated a steady following among students.

In 1995, Tan came back to the Philippines and ventured into real estate where he met Gatmaitan, who was then running his own marketing and distribution firm and several other business projects.

Last year, Tan started thinking about forming a TV production outfit, and he contacted Gatmaitan, who he believed was the best guy to involve in this venture.

They prepared themselves with extensive market analysis and research, and with the right partners: Online Post, a post-production company; Probe Productions Inc., the most awarded production company in Philippine TV, headed by Cheche Lazaro; and ABC 5, the carrying station of their programs.

Tan and Gatmaitan hope that as they try to elevate the quality of local TV programming, other TV outfits and producers would follow suit and strive to develop high quality shows for a more discriminating audience.

This month, Ideal Minds is set to launch four half-hour reality TV programs that will surely grab attention in the 9:30 p.m. time block on ABC 5: "Trabaho Lang" on Aug. 20, "RX Files" (also known as "Urban Doctor") on Aug. 21, "The Exchange" on Aug. 23, and "On Air" on Aug. 24.

"Trabaho Lang," hosted by Amelyn Veloso, is a newsmagazine program that takes a fun look at various jobs, from the odd to the hi-tech.

"RX Files," hosted by a young, good-looking doctor, is a light, fast-paced, dynamic look at medical and health subjects, such as alternative medicine, medical miracles, medical misconceptions and special reports.

"The Exchange" is docu-reality TV where two people, strangers to each other, trade places and get to live in each other's home and country for a month. The maiden episode features an exchange between a lovely Filipina who goes to the Czech Republic and a young Czech who experiences the Philippines for the first time.

"On Air" gives anyone interested his/her 60 seconds of fame to say what he/she wants on national TV. "On Air" has a video booth installed in the malls for anybody to walk in and say—whatever. The producers compile the best of the taped material and feature them in the weekly episodes.

It may take some time for the local audience to get used to these programs, but Chris Tan and Ton Gatmaitan are confident the formats will fly.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE PRODUCING TEAM OF 'BIG DADDY' DELIVERS ANOTHER WINNER!
"THE COMEDY HIT OF THE SUMMER!" SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV
THE ANIMAL
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
MEDIATRIP.COM/THEANIMAL

Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

2ND WEEK!

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 NOW SHOWING Art Film

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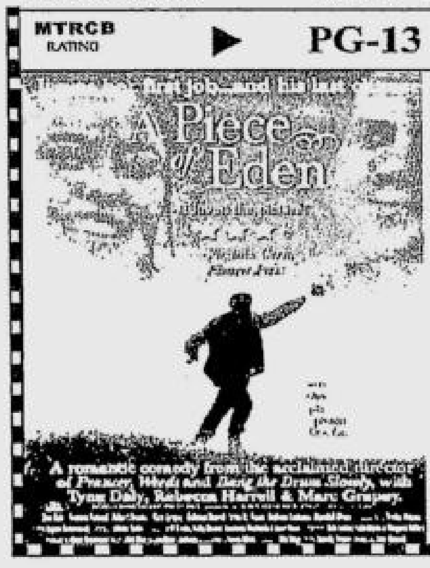
A Piece of Eden
A romantic comedy from the acclaimed director of Prancer, Words and Bang the Drum Slowly, with Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

A JOHN HANCOCK FILM

A Piece of Eden

A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tradici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of *Prancer, Weeds* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.

Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.

"a moving, powerfully affecting drama in which you discover that you can go home again - but not without laughter and tears."
- Helen Whitney, Director/Writer/Producer

"I've watched it five times and could watch it five more. I loved it."
- Diane Laird, Author

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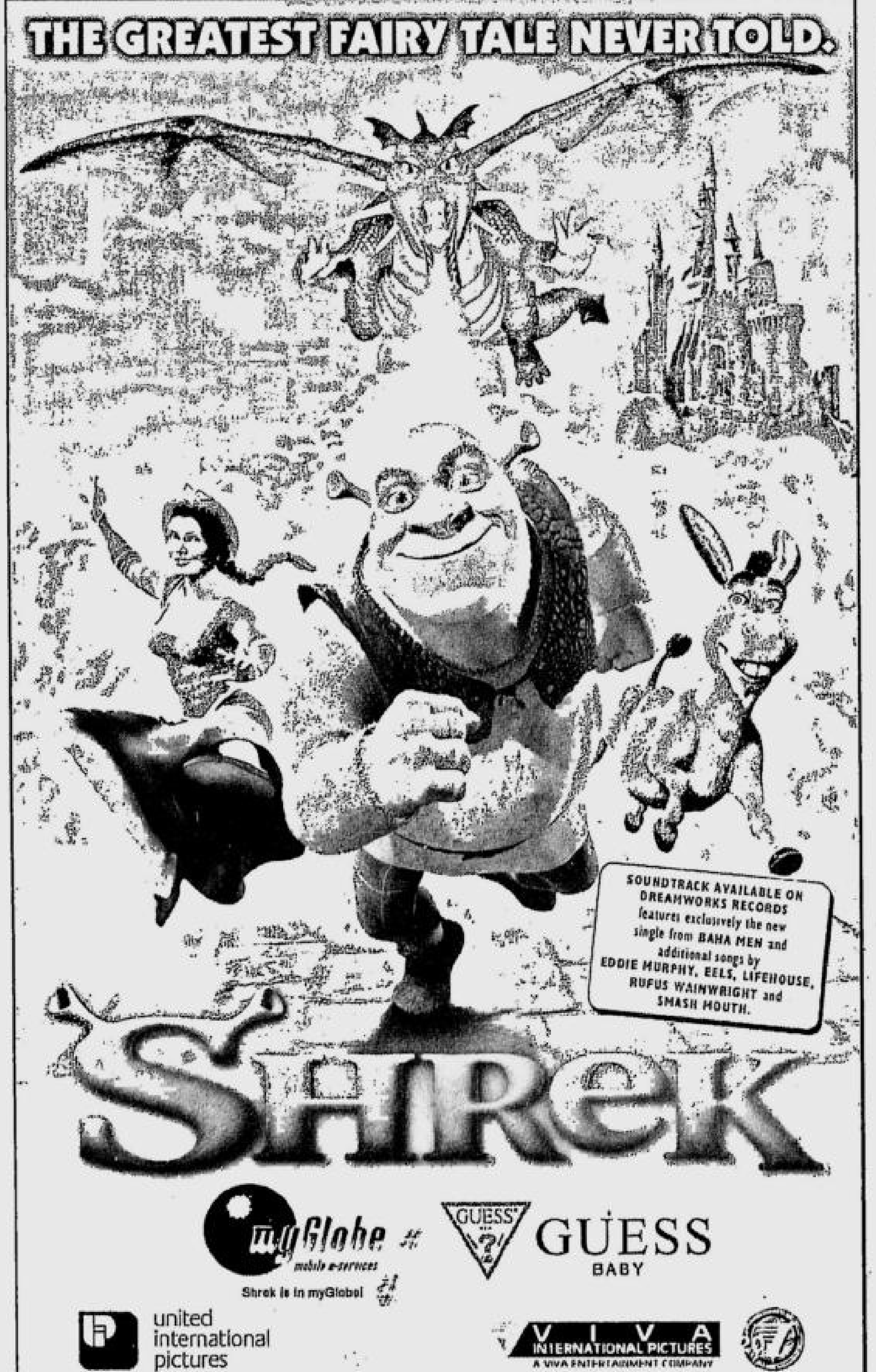
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SM MANILA @ 10:30 AM, SM NORTH @ 3:00 PM,
SM FAIRVIEW @ 5:00 PM, SM MEGAMALL @ 7:00 PM
AUGUST 19, 2001
PAVILION, BIÑAN @ 12 NN, FESTIVAL, ALABANG @ 1:30 PM,
SM SOUTHMALL @ 3:00 PM, SM BACOOR @ 5:00 PM, SM SUCAT @ 7:00 PM

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage All Ages Admitted

DON'T B L8!!!

COGIE DOMINGO DANILO BARRIOS JAMES BLANCO

Cool Dudes 24/7

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TONTON GUTIERREZ WILLIAM MARTINEZ JOHN APACIBLE CALOY ALDE
ANDREW A. PAREDES MARIA ALMA R. DE LA PEÑA REGGIE GULLE GERRY SANTOS RAUL MITRA
JOEY GOSIENGFIAO RONALD MONTEVERDE LILY YU MONTEVERDE
DIRECTED BY RUEL S. BAYANI

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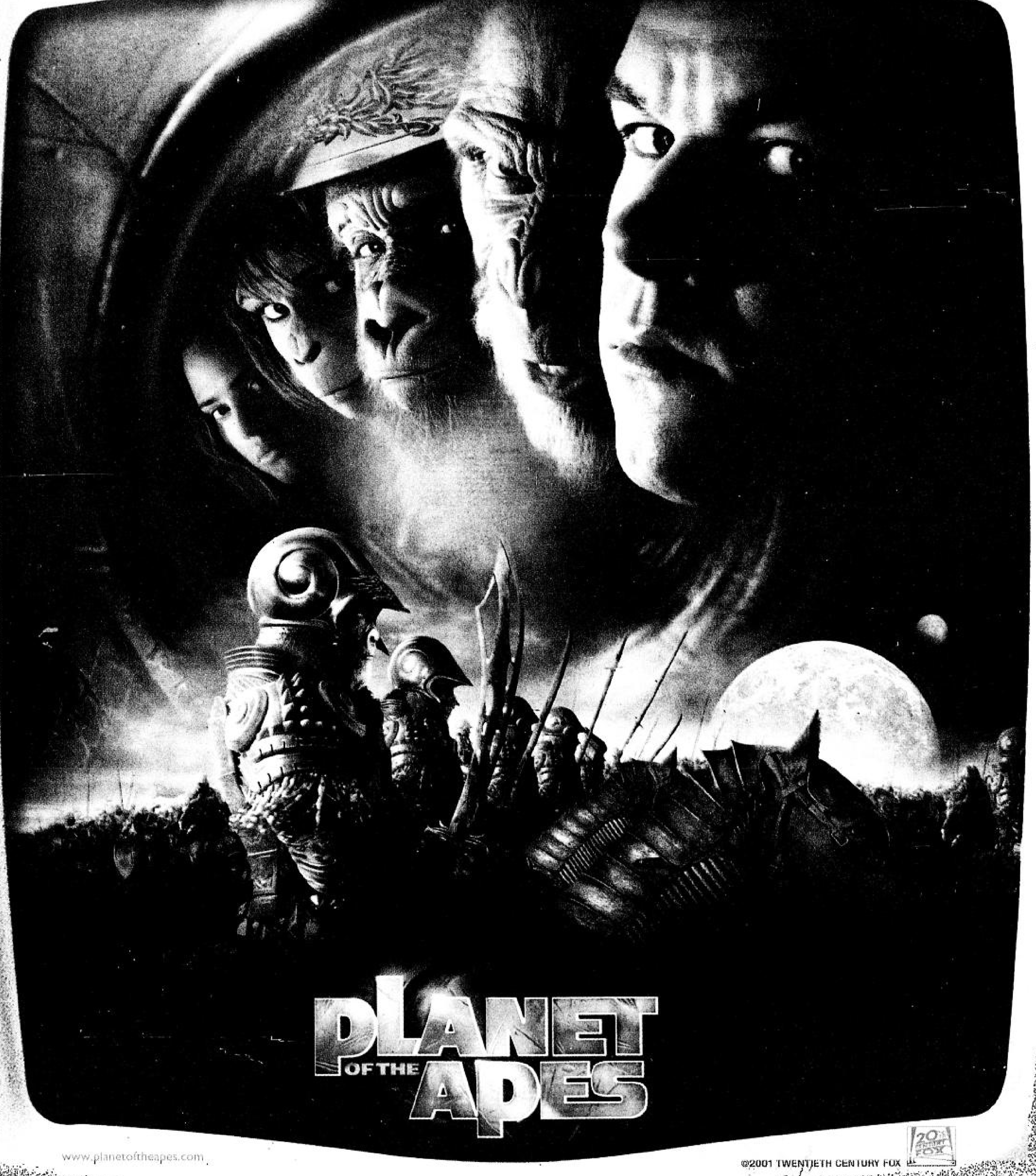

As a club member, you'll get access to all the official Planet of the Apes screensavers, operator logos, group graphics, and picture messages.

Official Planet of the Apes logos.

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(Operator Logo)

AFACE
(Picture Message)

HELMETL
(Operator Logo)

AEYES
(Picture Message)

SLOGANL
(Operator Logo)

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To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your friends' numbers> and send to 239. You can invite up to 3 friends at one time.

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To get movie trivia questions, key in **PLAY MT** and send it to 239.

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Peso climb rekindles optimism on economy

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DRAMATIC improvement in the peso during the past few days has given businessmen a fresh shot of optimism on the economy, deciding to forego plans to cut down their production and raise prices.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' deft move to quash currency speculation has given businessmen renewed hope that the peso remained fundamentally strong.

He said his sentiment was shared by most members of the Makati Business Club whose semi-annual survey last month showed the shift from boom to gloom outlook on the economy less than six months after President Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn to office.

The Bangko Sentral's surprising move to disclose the names of banks that had incurred penalties for dollar speculation followed up by the increase in reserve requirements have pushed the peso higher to 51.20 yesterday after threatening to pierce the 54 mark last week.

Concepcion said these twin moves have virtually wiped out the speculative factor in the exchange rate.

"The prevailing rate shows the real market value for our currency. Even though the problems of weak exports and ballooning budget deficit have yet to be resolved, the vast improvement in the peso shows that the currency's weakness in the past has been largely due to speculation," Concepcion said.

After the Bangko Sentral decided to clamp down on off-Philippine Dealing System transactions, Concepcion said there has been limited avenues for speculation as only individuals or corporations with legitimate dollar requirements could buy from the official market unlike before when parties would advance their dollar purchases ahead of their shipments.

Concepcion said businessmen were now more optimistic in keeping their factories running as well as keeping their prices firm with a more stable currency.

A number of businessmen were earlier spooked by prospects of a downward spiral of the peso to between 54 and 60 to the dollar because it would push their cost of inputs (most of which are imports) higher.

Concepcion said he expected the peso to remain steady at current levels for a significant period of time but he doubted whether the peso could hit President Macapagal's target of 50 to the dollar.

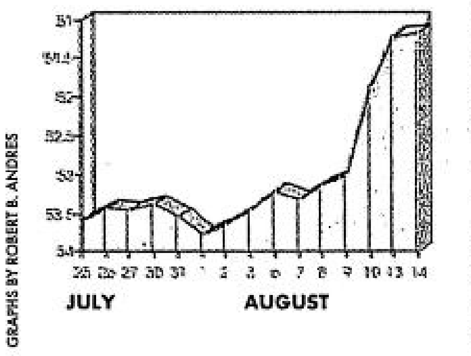
With the gains in the local currency, Concepcion said business would not worry about paying more for their imported inputs nor paying higher fuel and power costs.

Aside from the favorable currency market, Concepcion said business sentiment has turned from gloom to hope as Malacañang moved closer to resolving the Mindanao peace-and-order problem with the signing of a peace agreement with Muslim rebel groups during President Macapagal's first state visit in Malaysia.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.175 = $1
As of 5 p.m., August 14, 2001

¥ 122.62 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.62 as of 5 p.m., August 14, 2001

GOLD:$274.20/274.70
per ounce Hong Kong, August 14, 2001

August 14, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115200	1.000000	51.2780
Japan	Yen	0.009108	0.008167	0.4188
United Kingdom	Pound	1.584922	1.421200	72.8763
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143158	0.128370	6.5826
Switzerland	Franc	0.659063	0.590982	30.3044
Canada	Dollar	0.725286	0.650364	33.3494
Singapore	Dollar	0.634718	0.569152	29.1850
Australia	Dollar	0.576629	0.517063	26.5140
Bahrain	Dinar	2.958248	2.652661	136.0232
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297387	0.266667	13.6742
Brunei	Dollar	0.632021	0.566733	29.0609
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000132	0.000118	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.024722	0.022168	1.1367
UAE	Dirham	0.303704	0.272331	13.9646
Korea	Won	0.000875	0.000785	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896700	45.9810
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.458475	23.5097
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136701	7.0098
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.406905	20.8653
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065166	3.3416
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022229	1.1399
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000463	0.0237
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150814	7.7334
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004473	0.2294
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005389	0.2763
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022229	1.1399
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.138574	58.3838

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall on profit-taking

STOCKS snapped a two-day winning streak yesterday after investors chose to cut their holdings when the main index failed to conclusively breach a key resistance level, traders said.

The index has failed to consolidate above 1,310 points, viewed as a near-term resistance mark, in the previous two days, and this prompted investors to unload their holdings, they said.

Weakness in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. on concerns over its debt obligations, as well as pressure on some banks, weighed on the broad market.

"The market seems to be unable to hold on to its short-term gains after seeing the peso strengthening, which shows investors are still unconvinced that we have seen a quick fix with regard to an economic turnaround," UCPB Trust fund manager Vanessa Lim said.

The main index closed down 0.59 points, or 0.05 percent, at 1,303.06. Turnover fell further to P271.2 million, from P337.4 million on Monday.

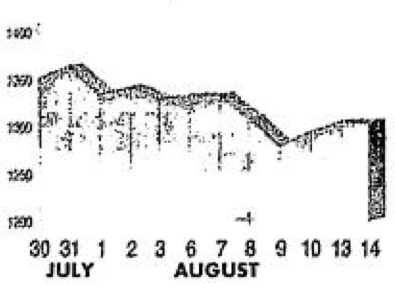
Lim said with no further positive developments emerging, the prevailing gloom over the country's economic prospects returned to weigh on sentiment.

"There is no impetus to buy up the market, if anything any gains will be viewed as a window for more selling," she said.

Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said the inability of the market to sustain gains was taken as a cue to sell.

"And the peso has stopped improving (strongly) as well," he said. *Reuters*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

UOB to reopen RP brokerage unit

UOB Kay Hian Securities (Philippines) Inc., the local stock brokerage unit of United Overseas Bank of Singapore, is set to reactivate its seat in the exchange after a three-month suspension of operations.

UOB director Wee Ee-chao has informed PSE president Ramon T. Garcia about the company's intention to reopen the brokerage business, according to a press statement issued yesterday.

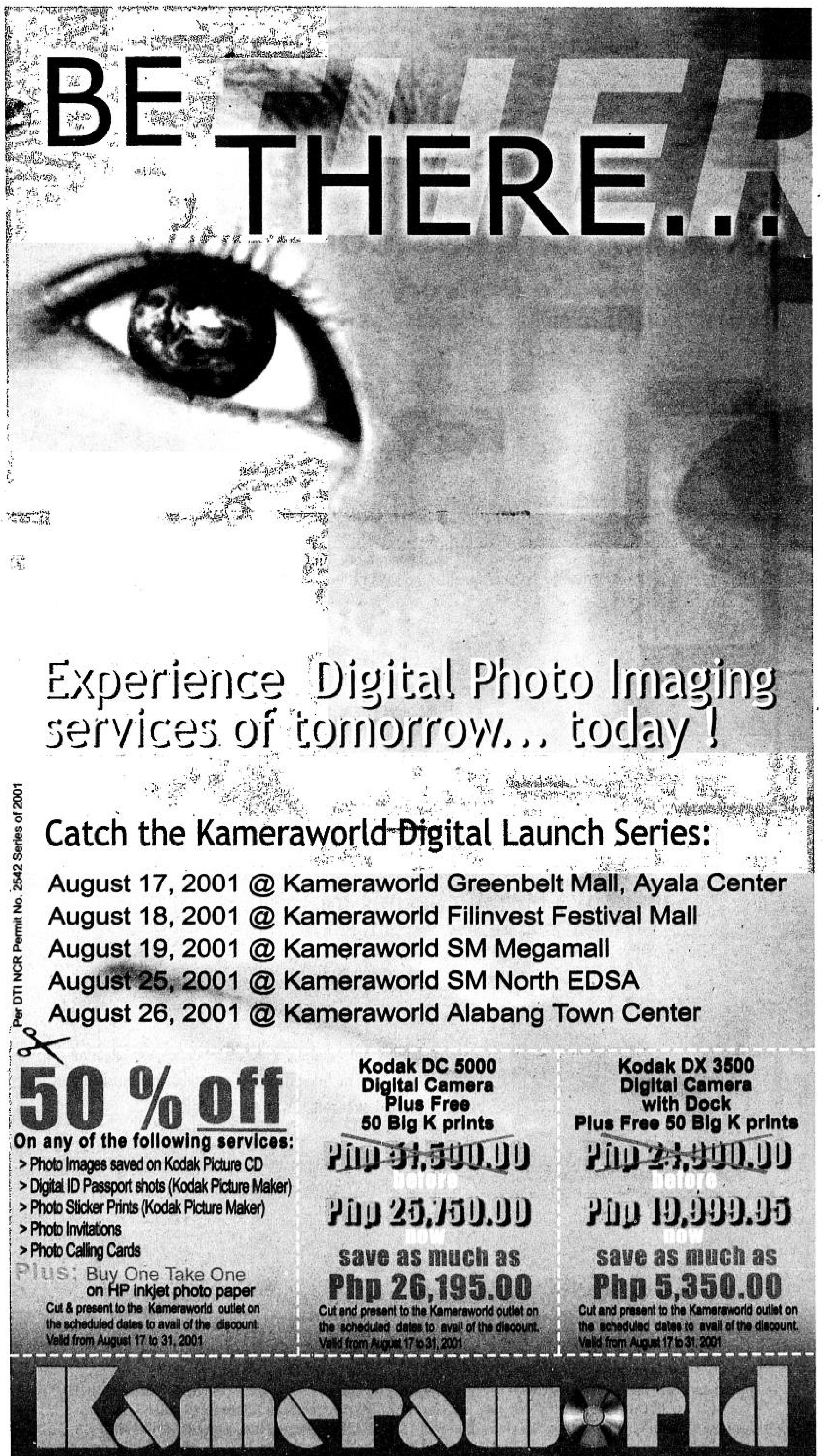
"I'm very happy about it. This is the first good news we've got after a series of suspension among foreign brokers," Garcia said in reaction to the news.

Garcia noted that the Singaporean principals of UOB were set to meet with the PSE management next week to discuss their plans for the local market.

The company will still need approval from the PSE to be able to formally resume operations and reactive its seat at the exchange. After suspending operations last May, it was originally targeting to resume operations by today.

UOB was among the seven foreign brokerage houses, which sus-

UOB/ B3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Music plans sale of new shares, assets to fund semiconductor unit

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

TECHNOLOGY firm Music Corp. is raising P306 million ($6 million) in fresh capital, bulk of which will come from the sale of new shares to stockholders, to expand its core semiconductor business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Music spokesperson Jimmy Soo said proceeds from the fund-raising activity would benefit core subsidiary Music Semiconductors Inc., which is engaged in the design and marketing of specialty devices for the networking industry.

"In the face of the global industry and economic slowdown, MSI no longer has the free operating cash to continue self-funding the development of key new products that can allow it significant (earnings) in the future in the fast-growing and ultimately large product market," Soo said.

Soo said the company's board had instructed the management to secure such financing "under the best terms possible under the circumstances while recognizing that the current worldwide economic situation is not at all positive at this time for raising capital."

The management proposed that half of the required financing, around $3 million, be sourced from the sale to Music directors, officers and employees of up to 18 percent of the company's shares in MSI.

Another measure proposed was to sell Music's stake in another subsidiary, Music Telecom, for $1.7 million with a right to repurchase the same by Nov. 30 this year.

To cover the remaining amount, Music president and CEO Michael Burton had agreed to advance $800,000 to the company. The advances will be repaid through the issuance of 25 million new Music shares at an issue price of P1.82 per share.

Music shares were up by 6 centavos to close at P1.60 at the local stock market yesterday.

The new shares to be issued will be listed on the PSE subject to the approval from the local bourse and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Music, whose Internet subsidiary Music.com recently went bankrupt, earlier said it was planning to tap another stock exchange outside the Philippines in view of the low turnover locally arising from political uncertainties.

Aside from Music Telecom, Music.com and MSI (which accounts for its core business), the company's other subsidiaries and their respective businesses are: Innovative Techologies Inc. (switch fabrics and network processors), and Music Manufacturing Technologies Inc. (integrated circuit engineering and testing).

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, August 14, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	62.5	62	62.5	69,600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	32	32	44,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	212	212	209	209	64,720
Philippine National Bank	46	47.5	46	47	621,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19.25	18.25	19.25	104,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1480	1480	1475	1475	600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1190	1210	1190	1210	13,870
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	4,000
Diversified Fin. Network	6	6	6	6	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	635	650	635	640	3,130
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	570	565	570	61,320
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.029	0.03	75,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	1,900
Manila Electric Co. B	39	39.5	38	39.5	1,144,600
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.8	551,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	40,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.96	2.04	1.96	2.04	1,855,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.34	550,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	74,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	663,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	116,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	3,000
RFM Corp.	2.38	2.4	2.36	2.38	743,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41.5	41	41.5	44,900
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	55.5	55	55.5	87,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5	5	5	5	3,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	498,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	345,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	1,436,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	710,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	100,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	100
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	900,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.8	3,090,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	30	29	29	153,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000
Ionics Inc.	10.25	11	10.25	11	204,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.215	7,490,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	810,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	14,860,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	10,000
Music Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	102,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	210,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	640,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	590,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	730,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.52	700,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	100
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	36	36	36	36	2,900
Cen Azuc De La Carl-Pref	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	4,687,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	10	10	10	10	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	685	685	660	680	1,170
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.015	0.015	0.012	0.013	41,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	4,426,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	30,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	10,930,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	250,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.02	1.02	6,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.84	2,002,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Primex Corp.	2.44	2.5	2.44	2.5	146,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	582,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	4,100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.035	0.038	0.03	0.031	155,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	620,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	140,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	140,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	290,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,500,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	17,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	985,790	68,180,280.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	272,274,220	165,102,830.00
PRO	22,672,000	32,017,480.00
Mining	161,190,000	5,629,050.00
OIL	23,500,000	119,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	480,627,010	271,061,240.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	533.47	DOWN 2.81
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,840.93	UP 2.29
PRO	498.85	DOWN 1.07
Mining	1,230.85	DOWN 7.12
OIL	1.71	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	775.74	DOWN 9.28
Composite	1,303.06	DOWN 0.59

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 1,593

DISCLOSURES

EXPRESS Holdings Inc., wholly owned subsidiary of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.,** bought an additional 52,000 shares of **Robinsons Land Corp.** at P2 per share.

* * *

MABUHAY Holdings Corp. denied having any knowledge that could explain the unusual movement in the price of its stock.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Philtread Holdings Corp.** approved the subscriptions by **ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., Francisco J. Colayco, Rodolfo Lozada Jr.** and **ATR Holdings Inc.** of up to 29.9 million class A and 19.9 million class B common shares of the company. Both were priced at P9 per share and shall be apportioned based on the agreement among parties.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved the amendment of **Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.**'s primary and secondary purpose to include electronic commerce and Internet technology.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Mariwasa Manufactures Inc.** approved the permanent closure of its wholly owned subsidiaries **Artistica Ceramica Inc., Cera Linda Inc., Ceramic Tile Specialists Inc., Cyber Ceramics Inc.** and **Millenium Ceramics Inc.**

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved the statutory merger of **Philippine Bank of Communications** and **Consumer Savings Bank.** The books of the two banks will be consolidated effective Aug. 8.

* * *

THE LISTING of 2.3 million common shares of **China Banking Corp.** shall be on Aug. 17 and not Aug. 14. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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Provincial Resellers: DC Tech Micro Services (Davao) 221 2380 * Digital Interface (Davao) 224 0472 * Thinking Tools, Inc. (Cebu) 254 2227 * CBX Corporation (Cebu) 346 8442

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2338 Series of 2001

Mr. John and Lucio Tan

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IF WE go by John Gokongwei Jr.'s account, Lucio Tan owes his fellow taipan his entry to the lucrative cigarette business and his eventual fortune.

When Mr. John started the family's Universal Robina Corp. in 1957 to make its first important product, Panda corn syrup, Cebu's trading giant Ludo and Luym decided to put the fellow Cebuano's upstart venture out of business by price war. But instead of clobbering Mr. John and Panda, the price war snuffed out a second upstart cornstarch company.

"(By) a strange twist, that other company had in its employ a chemist who lost his job . . . and was thus forced to seek employment in a cigarette company," the Gokongwei account said. "That chemist is today known to the country as Lucio Tan."

That and other revealing anecdotes are contained in "My Wei," a biographical magazine cranked out by the Gokongwei children as a gift to their father, who turned 75 on Saturday. Despite the P75 price sign on its cover, the special edition magazine is unfortunately not for sale.

(The "75" refers to their father's age, not the cover price, said publisher-daughter Lisa.)

But if you are a serious student of Philippine big business, we suggest you either beg for or borrow a copy, for it is both a serious and an entertaining chronicle not only of the life but also the times of a Cebuano college dropout who took on and prevailed, first, over the erstwhile biggest commodities trader in Cebu and, then, the entrenched family businesses in Manila. And these he did without being tarred by the crony brush.

Other taipannic tales

Consider these anecdotal gems:

- Despite the college handicap, Mr. John eventually went to De La Salle University and received an MBA, with the business school deciding to waive the college degree requirement.

Professors Cesar Virata and Vicente Paterno said they found it ironic that the only student in the class without a college degree was their best student.

- Mr. John was about to begin his premed schooling at Southwestern University when World War II broke out. To help feed the family, Mr. John, being the eldest of six kids of a recently widowed mother, engaged in buy-and-sell, as many desperate Filipinos did during the Japanese occupation.

"Astride his bike he smuggled US dollars and Philippine pesos past Japanese checkpoints," said the Gokongwei account. By the time the war ended, Mr. John had close to P40,000, about P4 million today, stashed away to get him into the trading business.

"The war was the great equalizer," Mr. John now likes to say. "Everyone had to start from zero and all you had were your wits."

COCKTALES/ B4

UOB to reopen RP brokerage . . .

(From page B1)

pended operations this year. The others were Citicorp International Securities Inc., BNP Paribas, Securities 2000, Nomura Securities, Orion Squire Capital Inc. and OCBC Securities. Top broker Merrill Lynch has likewise decided to leave the Philippines but the Filipino management team agreed to take over its operations.

But a former official of UOB said the company has not hired back its former staff members, which meant that the reactivated brokerage house would adopt a downsized business model.

ORTEGA TO ORTEGA: A CENTURY LATER

TODAY, the Provincial Government of La Union will celebrate 100th year of public service of the Ortega's whose forebear, Don Joaquin Ortega, was appointed first Filipino civil governor of La Union on August 15, 1901. One hundred years later, the governor of the province would be another Ortega, victor Francisco Ortega, who took over from his cousin, form: : Governor Justo Ortega Orros, Jr. Both belong to the third generation Ortega – as the 23rd and 24th governor, respectively, since 1901.

Don Joaquin was born in 1870 to Antonio Ortega and Juana Joaquino. His father worked with Tabacalera in Carlatan, San Fernando and the young Ortega would spend his vacation in the province. It was the Taft Commission that appointed him as La Union's first civil governor. In a book, "La Union, The Making of a Province", by a local author, Col. William Penn Duvall described Señor Ortega as "31 years old, born in Cebu, and a resident of Carlatan since 1889. Is married and has 5 children. A man of ability, force, dignity and fine address, and I believe, have confidence in this man's general fitness for the position than any other native."

Ortega went on to be the first elected civil governor of La Union in 1902 and served in that position until 1904. He also served as Lt. Governor of the sub-provinces of Abra, from 1905 to 1914, Bontoc and Mt. Province from 1916-1920, with designation to perform similar duties in the sub-province of Lepanto and Benguet. He was the special agent of the Bureau of Non-Christian tribes from 1920-1926.

His son-in-law, Don Pio Ancheta, was elected Governor of the province and served in 1919-1922. Ancheta, a delegate to the 1934 Constitutional Convention, was appointed to the same position on August, 1931.

Don Joaquin's son, Francisco, was elected councilor in 1928 at the age of 23. When "Pacoy", as Francisco was popularly known, ran for Legislature against the personal choice of President Manuel L. Quezon, his brother-in-law, then Governor Ancheta could not support him. He lost by 80 votes. He won in 1934. This was the first of six terms of "Pacoy", who became House Speaker Pro-Tempore in 1946.

When Don. Joaquin died on May 13, 1943, he did not realize that he would have numerous Ortega progenitors following his footstep in public service. Joaquin "Titing" Ortega, the 13th son of Don Joaquin, was elected Congressman in 1969. He was elected Assemolyman in 1980 and became the 22nd La Union governor in 1988.

Of the third generation, Victor served in various elective posts. He was unopposed when he ran for vice governor in 1980. He was Congressman of the First District of La Union for three terms and became House Deputy Speaker in 1998. Former Governor Orros, who was thrice elected to the position, also served as the municipal mayor of San Fernando, and provincial Board Member. Manuel "Manoling" C. Ortega, now on his second term as representative of first congressional district was thrice elected Mayor of San Fernando. Reelected City Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega of San Fernando City is the wife of Victor.

Aside from Victor and Manoling from the line of Francisco, we have Roberto who was twice elected Councilor of Baguio City: Francisco "Kit" recently elected Councilor of San Fernando; Pablo, thrice elected senior councilor and now a Provincial Board Member; Pepe, elected Barangay Captain of Central West, in Bauang town, and Mario, President of the Liga ng Barangay of La Union and Vice President of the National Liga ng Barangay.

The late Joaquin "Kining" Ortega served as Vice Mayor and Mayor of San Fernando. Carlos, the son of Joaquin "Titing", served as provincial board member for two terms, while Dr. Marvin Martinez of the line of Evaristo, was appointed Councilor of San Fernando.

Of the fourth generation, we have Francisco "Pacoy" Ramos Ortega, son of "Manoling" who was thrice elected provincial board member and now the Senior City Councilor, Robert Jr., also from the line of Pacoy and son of former Baguio Councilor Roberto was twice elected councilor of the Fifth District of Manila. From the line of Joaquina, the only living child of Don Joaquin, we have Jonathan Justo, son of the former governor, who was recently elected provincial board member. John Orros, city councilor, and Justito, a former SK Chairman, are sons of Joaquin Orros. Jose, son of "Kining", was elected SK Chairman. Vice governor Aureo Augusto Nisce is married to a fourth generation Ortega from the line of Vicenta Ortega Panis.

The heirs of Don Joaquin commissioned Leonardo Hidalgo to make a bust of their ancestor which will be unveiled today at the provincial capitol in San Fernando City. Commemorative stamps have been issued while the La Union provincial government sponsored a letter writing contest for high school students of La Union and an open category for all Filipino wishing to write in their comments. Essay writing and extemporaneous speaking contests were also held at the City Hall yesterday. The City Jail and Drug Rehabilitation Center will also be inaugurated today. A joint project of the city and provincial government, it is an example of an excellent teamwork.

In the tradition of Don Joaquin, the present elected officials have committed themselves to the continuity of programs and projects in the province as enduring tribute to the memory of the first civil governor of the province.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES (August 15)

8:30 AM

Thanksgiving Mass at the Saint Williams Cathedral

9:30 AM

Release of 100 balloons, Provincial Capitol; Drum and Lyre Exhibition, Provincial Capitol; Unveiling of Bust and Marker of Don Joaquin Ortega; Cutting of the Ribbon for the Photo and Art Exhibit at the 2nd floor, Provincial Capitol

10:00 AM

Centennial Anniversary Program, Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol; Invocation of Ms. Caridad J. Vinluan, SP Secretary; Pambansang Awit and La Union Hymn; Imnas ti La Union and the San Fernando City Millennium Choir; Introduction of Guests and Visitors by Dr. Geoffery S. Tilan, Provincial Administrator; Welcome Remarks by Hon. Augusto Aureo Q. Nisce, Vice Governor; A Flashback: The Public Life and Times of Don Joaquin Ortega by Hon. Mary Jane C. Ortega, City Mayor; Inspirational Message by Hon. Manuel C. Ortega, Rep. (1st District) and Hon. Tomas M. Dumpit Rep. (2nd District); Presentation of Souvenir Frames and Message by Hon. Nicasio P. Rodriguez, Postmaster-General, Philippine Postal Corporation; Intermission by City Millennium Choir; Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker by Gov. Victor F. Ortega; Speech by Hon. Jose C. De Venecia, Speaker, House of Representatives; Response by Gov. Victor F. Ortega; Awarding of Prizes to winners in the essay and letter-writing Extemporaneous Speech Contests— Assisted by Ched Dr. Magdalena C. Jasmin, Committee Chairperson and Closing Remarks by Hon. Augusto O. Orros, Jr., Former Governor of La Union

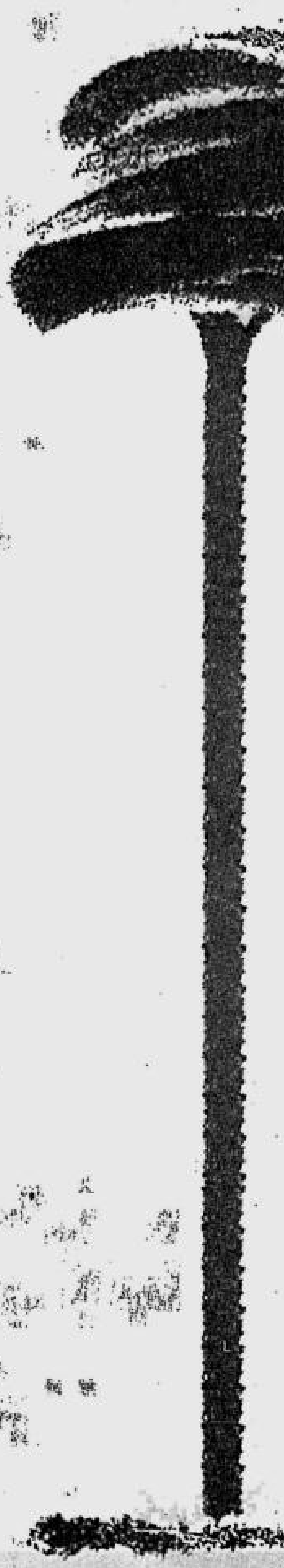
Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Cecilia S. Borja, Provincial Information Officer

2:00 PM

Inauguration of City Jail and Drug Rehabilitation, Drop-In Center, Barangay Pias, San Fernando City; Message by C/Supt. Arturo W. Alit, OIC-Bureau of Jail, Management and Penology; Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker by Hon. Victor F. Ortega; Speech by Hon. Jose D. Lina, Jr., Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government

3:00 PM

Consultation Meeting with the Provincial, City and Municipal Officials of La Union, Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol City of San Fernando; Signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of the President's Bridge Program Phase II, Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando; Alay kay Don Joaquin Medical and Dental Outreach Services with the La Union Mobile Health Clinic, Provincial Jail, Camansi, City of San Fernando



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Money supply growth slows to 13% in June

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said local monetary authorities were open to another increase in the banks' reserve requirement if the economy would continue to slow down in the coming months.

"I think the excess liquidity has been taken out for the time being unless the economy slows down further and we may have to do something again," he said.

The growth in money supply in the system has declined to almost 13 percent as of June but the BSP was still worried that such figure, which was down from 14.7 percent a month ago, remained a threat to inflation.

As of end-July, the BSP had raised the banks' reserve requirement on deposits and deposit substitutes by two percentage points to 18 percent. Last Friday, the reserve requirement was raised further to 20 percent.

With the two increases, the central bank said it had mopped up almost P55 billion in excess money from the system that monetary authorities believed were being used to speculate against the peso that, in turn, can also lead to a higher inflation.

The central bank was originally targeting to let domestic liquidity grow by 15 percent toward the end of the year.

Domestic liquidity, also referred to as M3, is a measure of money supply that includes money held by individuals, institutional investors, and banks.

But the growth in M3 as of May far exceeded the growth in the economy and this prompted the BSP to raise the banks' reserves by four percentage points to siphon off excess money from the system.

A central bank official said that despite the four- percentage-point rise in the reserves requirement, there remained a healthy buffer of about P20 billion in the system.

Buenaventura also pointed out that banks have no reason to increase their lending rates, particularly to their average clients.

He said banks were only justified to raise slightly the lending rates for the so-called "super prime" clients or the big, usually multinational companies that can borrow from banks at a rate at par with the 91-day treasury bill yield.

"Banks should not increase lending rates because there really is no corporate demand and

MONEY/ B8

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Civil Service Commission announces the semi-finalists to this year's *Lingkod Bayan, Dangal ng Bayan, Pagasa* and *Outstanding Skilled Workers* in Government Awards.

LINGKOD BAYAN AWARD

1. **Adiong, Bio Umpar**
   Director
   Bureau of Plant Industry
2. **Golez, Hernani G.**
   Agricultural Center Chief III
   Nat'l. Mango Research & Dev't. Center, Iloilo City
3. **Laysa, Fe Divinagracia**
   Regional Executive Director
   Department of Agriculture
4. **Mencios, Reynaldo C.**
   Project Manager
   Nat'l. Irrigation Administration
5. **Catalan, Ma. Jane B.**
   Professor
   Iloilo State College of Fisheries
6. **Cortez, Cesar G.**
   Asst. Professor IV
   Rizal Technological University
7. **Lidasan, Myrna B.**
   Principal III
   Amir Bara Lidasan National High School, Maguindanao
8. **Quimio, Tricia Hidalgo**
   Professor, Univ. of the Phils. Los Baños (UPLB)
9. **Roa, Cornelio, Jr. C.**
   Professor
   UP College of Medicine
10. **Garcia, Rommel L.**
    Rural Health Physician
    Angeles City Health Office
11. **Baldovino, Antonio A.**
    Foreign Service Staff Officer I,
    Dept. of Foreign Affairs
12. **Dacawi, Ramon S.**
    Public Information Officer III,
    Baguio City Mayor's Office
13. **Killip, Thomas Aligmayo**
    Municipal Mayor, Sagada
14. **Larot, Lorenzo Sr. S.**
    Sr. Police Officer 3
    Phil. National Police
15. **Belaro, Vicente M.**
    Sr. Police Officer IV
    NCR-Police Office
16. **Cabal, Ligaya S.**
    Police Chief Inspector
    Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna
17. **Cael, Richard D. Sr.**
    Fire Officer II, Arson Inv.
    Baguio City Fire Station
18. **Codiñera, Perfecto S.**
    SPO 3, Cebu City Police Office
19. **De Aro, Chito R.**
    SPO 4/Police Community Relations Officer
    Sta. Ana, Davao City
20. **Detablan, Ma. Cecilia R.**
    SPO 4
    Camp Delgado, Iloilo City
21. **Fodriquelan, Linda**
    Principal I
    Mabini National High School Romblon
22. **Fangsilat, Vilma L.**
    Jail Officer I
    Baguio City Jail
23. **Gavino, Renato L.**
    Elem. School Principal I
    Mac Mariano Elem. School
    Naga City
24. **Huesca, Francisco F.**
    SPO 4
    Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force
    Camp Crame
25. **Kwan Tiu, Wilberto Rico A.**
    Sr. Insp./Station Commander
    Bureau of Fire Protection
26. **Labra, Pablo II G.**
    CID, Chief
    Camp Cabahug, Cebu City
27. **Lago, Timoteo, Jr. R.**
    Proj. Dev't. Officer III
    Phil. Coconut Authority
28. **Macavinta, William S.**
    Chief, Admin./Security Officer
    OHRDD, Camp Crame
29. **Madamba, Bobby A.**
    SPO 1/Investigator
    Paniqui Police Station, Tarlac
30. **Maling, Venancio N.**
    Chief, Intelligence & Investigation Div., Marinduque
31. **Mapalad, Virgilio J.**
    State Auditor IV
    Commission on Audit, RO 2
32. **Marquez, Placido C.**
    Exec. Judge, Reg'l Trial Court
    RTC Branch 81, Romblon
33. **Mendoza, Divina M.**
    Day Care Worker II
    City Gov't. of Lipa City
34. **Mudanza, Gloria M.**
    Schools Div. Superintendent
    DECS-Kidapawan City
35. **Ochotorena, Victoria R.**
    Master Teacher II, Camp Evangelista Elem. School
    Cagayan de Oro City
36. **Pangilinan, Eduardo N.**
    Utility Worker I
    Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital
    Caloocan City
37. **Sarmiento, Lucena S.**
    Principal III
    Sta. Ana National High School
38. **Yusop, Rudy A.**
    SPO 3/Chief of Police
    Talipao Police Station

DANGAL NG BAYAN AWARD

1. **Alingig, Ma. Virgita E.**
   Master Teacher I
   Kauswagan, Central School
   Cagayan de Oro City
2. **Allera, Mary Ann**
   Secondary Sch. Teacher I
   Lapasan National High School
   Cagayan de Oro City
3. **Baengan, Florante P.**
   Computer Operator I, Phil. National Police, Ilocos Norte
4. **Bañez, Ragsac M.**
   Branch Head/Sr. Manager
   Dev't. Bank of the Phils.

PAGASA AWARD

Individual Category

1. **Bermudez, Helsy Santos**
   Provincial Irrigation Officer III
   Nat'l Irrigation Administration
2. **Boicio, Edgar Casinto**
   City Jail Warden, Baguio City Jail
3. **Datuin, Victorino Pangilinan**
   Division Chief III
   Dept. of Trade & Industry (DTI)
4. **Maestro, Nilda Galin**
   District Supervisor
   DECS Division of Romblon
5. **Malaya, Corazon Enciso**
   Schools Division Supt.
   DECS Division of Camarines Sur

Group Category

1. **Civil Registry Office**
   Cabarroguis, Quirino
2. **DTI-3 Quality Team on Business Regulation**
   DTI RO 3, Angeles City
3. **National Power Corporation-Northern Luzon Operations Division**
4. **Phil. Children's Medical Center Pediatric Blood Center**
   PCMC, Quezon City
5. **The Sweet Potato**
   Homegarden and Snackfood Processing Enterprise Team
   Benguet State University

OUTSTANDING SKILLED WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT AWARD

1. **Alata, Virgilio M.**
   Science Aide
   Phil. Rice Research Institute
2. **Baluyot, Lorenzo V.**
   Lab. Technician II, UPLB
   Institute of Biological Science
3. **Dela Cruz, Bernie S.**
   Sheet Metal Worker I
   Phil. Rice Research Institute
4. **Manalo, Luisito B.**
   Farm Worker, UPLB
5. **Maria, Simplicio N.**
   Metals Technologist II
   Metal Industry Research & Dev't. Center
6. **Ogata, Freddie P.**
   Mechanic II
   DTI
7. **Verzano, Eliseo M.**
   Farm Worker I
   Veterinary Office
   Negros Oriental
8. **Viernes, Benjamin J.**
   Utility Worker
   Nestra Señora de Piat District Hospital, Cagayan
9. **Carpentero, Manuel R.**
   Driver
   Bureau of Internal Revenue
10. **Maderazo, Noriel A.**
    Utility Worker I
    Cayetano Arellano High School
11. **Sandoval, Alex A.**
    Laborer II
    Pablo, Dominador E.
    Laborer I
    Nueva Vizcaya State Institute of Technology
12. **Viluan, Alexander C.**
    Medical Equipment Tech. IV
    Phil. General Hospital

The Committee on Awards requests any reaction or information, either positive or negative, about the above-mentioned semi-finalists. Kindly submit information to the Honor Awards Program Secretariat, Public Information Service, Civil Service Commission, Diliman, Quezon City on or before August 22, 2001, with tel nos. 931-6850/51; telefax 931-8043/931-7993. Information received beyond the deadline shall no longer be entertained or acted upon. All information received will be kept confidential.

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Gov't agencies get ₱1.35B from Piso Bank dividends

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC), liquidator of Piso Development Bank, turned over a total of P1.35 billion representing surplus dividends from the claims of the national government and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in simple ceremonies yesterday at the Department of Finance.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, PDIC president and CEO Norberto C. Nazareno, Monetary Board member and Central Bank-Board of Liquidators chair Teodoro B. Montecillo, Chief Privatization Officer Renato Valdecantos and National Treasurer Sergio Edeza led the simple ceremonies.

Piso Bank turned over P2.9 million to the Privatization Management Office (formerly Asset Privatization trust), P81.6 million to the CB-BOL, P210.65 million to the BSP and P1.05 billion to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The P2.9-million claim of the PMO originated from the Development Bank of the Philippines as bills payable, which was consequently transferred to APT as administrator of DBP's non-performing assets. The claim of the CB-BOL represented the overdrawing of Piso Bank with then Central Bank and interest on the jumbo loans retained by the CB-BOL.

The money turned over to the BSP represented surplus dividends from loans obtained by the then Central Bank from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a syndicate of foreign banks. These loans were relent by the central bank to accredited financial institutions, Piso Bank included.

Piso Bank was formerly known as Market Savings and Loan Association until its conversion into a private development bank in 1981 when it was renamed Piso Development Bank. Six years later on Feb. 3, 1987, the Monetary Board placed Piso Bank under receivership.

Cocktales . . .

(From page B3)

(If you want to read another fabulous rags-to-riches story that began during the Japanese occupation, check out "Teacher to Tycoon," the fascinating story of hotelier Trinidad Diaz Enriquez as written, very well if we may interject, by daughter Erlinda Panlilio. The book is available at National Book Store for P395/paperback copy.

The anecdotes about the Marcoses and the Tantocos are eye-popping, coming as they did from the Panlilios. But we are digressing.)

- Despite his billions, Mr. John sold an extra ticket gifted to him during the Sydney Olympics right there outside the boxing venue, recalled his newfound friend, Antonio Go, the chair of Equitable PCI Bank.

Go, Mr. John and former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel C. Singson, who now works for Mr. John as a consultant, are flying this fall to Shanghai for an undisclosed venture. (Mr. John buying back the Equitable-PCIBank combine at half the price he originally received from the PCIBank sale? An intriguing proposition.)

Manila's best kept secret

Contrary to what we reported Monday, Mr. John had, despite the fears of his family, absolutely no inkling about the massive birthday party that awaited him Saturday night in the family's Manila Midtown Hotel.

Despite the 500-plus invitations sent out, apparently not a single soul blabbered, a feat in this gossip-indulgent (ouch!) society.

To keep the taipan away from any last-minute hitches, Mrs. John made the husband watch with her at the nearby Robinsons theater the film "Bridget Jones's Diary." ("Boring," Mrs. Elizabeth Gokongwei, aka Mrs. John, later said. "I don't like dry British humor.")

The script was that, after the movie, Mr. and Mrs. John was to have a quiet dinner with the immediate family to celebrate his birthday; four tables were supposedly reserved at the hotel for that purpose.

The script almost unraveled when Mr. John bumped into four top executives from Alcatel. Asked by Mr. John what they were doing there on a stormy Saturday night, the four said they were there precisely to attend his birthday dinner.

"You got it wrong," Mr. John recalled telling the Alcatel contingent, adding that the dinner was just for the family, and that the party for employees and business friends was set for Monday.

Mr. John later recalled seeing "so many PSG," Presidential Security Guards, positioned in strategic areas and thought, wrongly, that "the President must be holding a presscon here."

As son Lance later toasted father during the dinner, "A man known for great gut feel could not even sense his own birthday party. Dad, maybe it's a signal that you should retire."

In addition to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Miguel, among the VIP guests included former San Miguel chair Andres Soriano III and Doris Magsaysay-Ho of Magsaysay Lines, two companies Mr. John had famously tangled with in the past.

Both ASIII and Ho took French leaves after greeting their former adversary, an artful dodge ASIII also executed during the wedding reception of a son of taipan George Ty with a daughter of Lucio Tan.

Incidentally, Ho and her Singaporean partners, Keppel, have just suffered an outstanding reversal in the Supreme Court, who ruled in favor of Mr. John, over the controversial bidding of the Cebu shipyard.

We understand that the Supreme Court has ordered Ho and Keppel, who are now operating the publicly listed shipping company, to return some shares to Mr. John.

But that is another story that will be told later.

Heard through the grapevine

ASKED by friends about her husband's filibustering, Bettina Osmeña said it was Sen. Sergio Osmeña III's way of protesting, but could not say so in public because of legislative niceties, the initial award of the chairmanship of the committee on banks to his colleague, Manuel Villar.

Apparently the Osmeña beef was, how could someone who owes banks and foreign bondholders zillions of debts be made to head the Senate banking committee?

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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SM Prime posts 12% rise in profit

RETAILING giant and mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. yesterday said it made a net income of P1.7 billion from revenues of P3.4 billion in the first half of the year.

It said earnings per share for the period was 17.1 centavos.

The first six-month net income was 12-percent higher than last year's P1.52 billion.

Revenues grew 18 percent to P3.4 billion from year-ago level of P2.88 billion. Revenue from tenants' rental increased by 20 percent to P2.72 billion from 2,2651.5 billion.

Income from operations grew to P2.072 billion from last year's P1.83 billion. However, interest and other income in the first semester declined by 34 percent to P107.3 million from P162.6 million, due mainly to declining interest rates.

In April 2001, the company opened its eleventh mall, the 57,000-square meter SM Sucat-Supercenter in Parañaque to a highly receptive market.

SM Prime is currently completing the construction of its mall in Davao which is scheduled for opening before year-end. It has also started building the 23,000-square meter annex of SM City-Pampanga, which will open in December this year. Civil works are ongoing for the construction of a mall in Bicutan, Parañaque, and another annex of 51,000 square meters at the SM City-North Edsa.

Equitable PCI 1st half income reaches ₱23M

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has reported a net income of P23 million in the first semester of the year even as it continued its aggressive deposit recovery program.

Equitable PCI Bank, remains the country's third largest private domestic bank in terms of capital at P44.9 billion, a key component to a bank's financial strength and stability. The bank's assets amounted to P250.3 billion while total deposits hit P136.8 billion. The BIS capital adequacy ratio showed a healthy 12 percent, comfortably above the 8 percent required by international standards.

In a disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Equitable PCI Bank said it posted a loss of P120 million in the second quarter. This, it said, was due to the prevailing economic conditions in the country.

Equitable PCI said it was on track in its overall program under the new management team led by its chair Antonio Go and president and CEO Deogracias Vistan who formally joined the bank in June this year.

Already, Equitable-PCI Bank is seeing success in its aggressive deposit recovery program. This has enabled the bank to prepay P16 billion, or more than half of its BSP liquidity facility.

JFC 6-month income up 6.6%

FASTFOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. registered a 6.6-percent rise in net income after tax to P451 million in the first half of the year.

Miguel Jose Navarrete said in an analyst briefing yesterday that the robust growth was achieved despite higher expenses arising from the increase in wages and oil prices. The income increase was attributed to the 20-percent rise in system-wide retail sales to P11.6 billion.

He noted that there were structural changes implemented to position the company for sustained growth. The Jollibee group hit the 800-store mark with the opening recently of 50 new stores.

He said the strong revenue growth during the first half was due to the sustained growth of the flagship Jollibee brand, higher contribution from newly acquired Chinese fastfood chain unit Chowking and the improved operations of Greenwich.

Chowking's store sales growth in the second quarter exceeded 40 percent while sales of Greenwich grew 13.8 percent.

Navarrete said the company was confident it would hit the 8 to 10 percent growth in net income projection for the full year.

JG Summit profit up 43.7% in 6 mos.

JG Summit Holdings Inc., the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, yesterday said its net income shot up 43.7 percent to P1.486 billion in the first half of this year from year-ago level.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, JG Summit attributed the favorable results to the solid performance of its food, property, financial service businesses and the complete turnaround of the textile business, which registered net income from a net loss over the reference period.

Consolidated revenues of the holding company went up 21.5 percent to P19.28 billion from last year's P15.87 billion. JG Summit said the revenue growth for the foods business was brought about largely by the consolidation of its regional consumer branded food operations in Southeast Asia and China.

Operating expenses also increased 25.7 percent to P5.62 billion from P4.47 billion because of a 30-percent increase in depreciation charges, mostly on the telecommunication facilities of Digitel Telecommunications Inc.

Interest and other financing charges rose 25.3 percent to P2.2 billion from P1.77 billion because of the impact of the peso's weakness against the greenback.

Net operating income grew to P1.91 billion, 38.7 percent from last year's P1.38 billion.

Last month, JG Summit closed a $100-million borrowing through a syndicated bank loan in order to finance capital expenditures of its telecommunications, property and food businesses.

Gov't cuts borrowing target by 36%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has reduced by 36 percent its foreign borrowing requirement for next year to P111.8 billion from this year's P173.8 billion.

However, its debt servicing obligations are expected to double compared to this year's level.

In its meeting last Saturday, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council approved the financing program for next year that will involve a more aggressive foreign borrowing stance compared to this year.

Proceeds of the borrowings will be used to bridge the projected P145-billion budget deficit this year and the P130-billion projected budget gap next year.

A substantial portion of the money to be raised this year and next will also be used to pay off maturing obligations.

Department of Finance data showed that the national government will obtain 52 percent or P48.5 billion of the P111.8 billion financing requirement from foreign sources and only 48 percent from the domestic market.

Of the P173.8 billion in borrowings this year, the foreign component was only 28 percent while 78 percent or P163.3 billion represented financing obtained locally.

The government needs to shell out P90 billion to service maturing foreign debts and another P65.6 billion to pay maturing local obligations. The level of debt-servicing doubled from P47.9 billion for foreign loans and P47.7 billion for domestic borrowings.

A DoF official explained that the foreign borrowing binge during the time of Ramos and Estrada was already catching up on the Macapagal administration.

He pointed out that a big portion of the foreign financing for next year would come from overseas development assistance or ODA to enable the country avail itself of softer terms.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho earlier said that the government would double its utilization of foreign funds for developmental projects.

The government is planning to use P24 billion in ODA funds this year and more than P50 billion next year.

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF AUGUST 15, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1.8 M/ 2.1 M *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	740,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	109,000/110,000 *
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	135,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000	400,000/450,000*/700,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	240,000/350,000*/445,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	350,000/350,000 *
METRO CLUB A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	780,000/850,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000 **	250,000/425,000 *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	220,000	230,000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	-	230,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
STA. ELENA GOLF	-	1,600,000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	400,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	800,000
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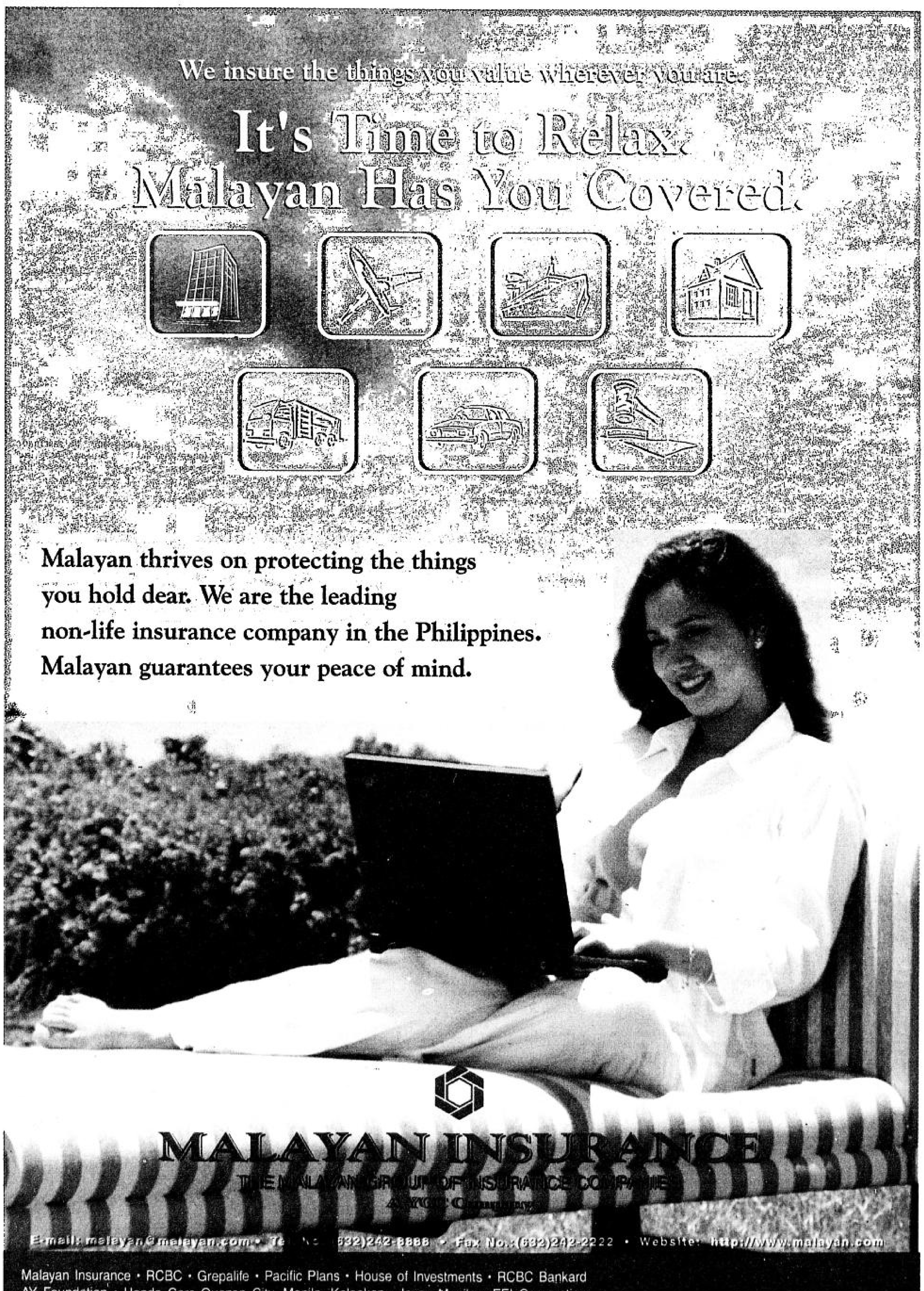
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Gov't says medium-term dev't plan more realistic

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT will push for a more realistic and predictable Medium Term Philippine Development Program (MTPDP), which it hopes will stoke investor interest. Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said that the government's economic managers have been tasked to set more realistic and doable targets for the economy in the MTPDP.

Roxas said the President was willing to be judged by these standards unlike previous administrations that forego any assessment of their performance after setting their targets.

ROXAS

Roxas said a big plus for the new MTPDP was the promise of more predictability with President Macapagal-Arroyo eligible to run for a new 6-year term in 2004.

He said the prospect of having the same President for up to nine years should be a big boost to foreign investors that have long complained about the unstable government policies in the country.

The MTPDP is the government's roadmap for economic development from 2001 to 2004 with emphasis on winning the war against poverty through macroeconomic stability and sustained growth of income and employment across socioeconomic classes and regions of the country.

The MTPDP has 13 key chapters that will guide the Macapagal administration in its development and peace efforts.

These are: ensuring sustained growth with equity and macroeconomic stability; promoting full, decent, and productive employment; enhancing capacities through health, education and housing; protecting vulnerable groups; accelerating comprehensive rural development; gearing for international competitiveness in industry and services; Putting the Philippines on the international tourism map; strengthening public-private partnership in infrastructure development; bridging the digital divide, information and communications technology; reducing the regional disparities and spatial development; creating competitive and livable cities and urban areas; pursuing sustained peace and development in Mindanao, and improving the quality of life through good governance.

Delay in Tiwi project worries Marubeni

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MARUBENI Philippines Corp. expressed concerns over the expected delay in the approval of the contract governing the P1.7-billion partial rehabilitation of the Tiwi geothermal complex.

Document obtained by reporters showed that Marubeni and National Power Corp. have agreed that a partial rehabilitation would be undertaken to bring the 330-megawatt plant's performance "back to almost 100 percent."

The Japan-based firm said it had submitted a performance guarantee to Napocor, which means that it will be responsible in bringing the plant to the guaranteed performance level should the rehabilitation fail.

Marubeni, however, noted that Napocor has yet to seek the opinion of the National Economic Development Authority on whether the Tiwi power complex should undergo partial rehabilitation.

"It easily takes two to three months before (such notice) reaches the Neda Investment Coordinating Committee," the firm added.

Marubeni said Neda "should not spend much time on this issue" as the loan facility from Japan Bank for International Cooperation was set to expire in March next year.

The partial rehabilitation is supposed to cover four of the six units of the 330-megawatt Tiwi complex in Albay.

These are generating units Nos. 1, 2, 5 and 6, each of which is 55 mw in capacity.

Generators 1 and 2 are supposed to be upgraded to 59 mw while plants 5 and 6 to 57 mw each after rehabilitation.

Napocor said the higher capacities would have been attained without increasing the volume of steam used in the generators.

NTC readies flexible phone payment schemes

By Abigail L. Ho

FIXED line subscribers will soon have more choices on how to pay their telephone bills.

The National Telecommunications Commission will present to the public today several retail tariff structures that will provide more flexible payment schemes compared to the current fixed monthly fee charged by telephone companies.

These are metering (per minute or per second), fixed monthly fee or prepaid.

In the proposed memorandum circular, a telecommunications company must offer at least two out of three tariff structures to both residential and non-residential subscribers, giving them a choice on how they want to pay their bills.

The metering scheme was pushed by telecommunications companies such as the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. as early as 1997 but was met with stiff opposition.

"The public opposed the metering scheme when it was proposed because it did not give subscribers a choice. Had it been approved at that time, PLDT would have just imposed it across-the-board. But now, there will be more payment plans to choose from," NTC chief Eliseo Rio said in an earlier interview.

But this scheme is now just one of the choices that subscribers can choose from.

The prepaid scheme, on the other hand, was patterned after the popular prepaid call card plan offered by cellular phone companies. Under this system, subscribers will just replenish their prepaid accounts when they run out of phone credits.

In the case of the cellular phones, a subscriber can still receive calls even on zero balance. But in the fixed network, the account must be replenished within two months or the service will be permanently disconnected.

"Landlines will adapt the same arrangement, although the NTC wants to extend this to two years," Rio said.

On top of the three different payment schemes, a fixed line provider must also combine these with either or both a lower fixed monthly charge and zero monthly rental charge for the unit.

In a meeting with telecommunications companies last July 9, Rio said the new retail pricing schemes would benefit the consumers as well as the telecommunications companies.

"Existing customers can migrate to new choices or opt to stay with their current fixed plan. There will also be lower entry price barriers for new subscribers. Carriers can also get revenue from their existing idle capacity as more people subscribe to landlines," Rio said in his presentation.

Right now, the country has 7 million installed landlines, 3.8 million of which are idle or not yet subscribed.

GOINGS-ON

PAL adds 3 new destinations

PHILIPPINE Airlines will begin services to three new destinations in Australasia while temporarily reducing frequencies to the Middle East and merging two trans-Pacific flights. These moves form part of the restructuring of PAL's route network in response to market forces and trends in the global economic scene.

On Oct. 28, 2001, PAL will restore a direct link between Manila and Melbourne, Australia. This service will be an extension of the current three-times-a-week operation to Sydney, which will now be routed Manila-Melbourne-Sydney-Manila.

Widebody Airbus 330-300 aircraft will continue to be deployed on the Australia route.

PAL will launch services to Bangkok and Shanghai in the last quarter of the year.

Meanwhile, PAL will cut frequencies between Manila and Saudi Arabia from six to three times weekly starting Aug. 17, 2001.

The affected flights are those to Dammam, PR 656, and its return service to Manila, PR 657, which are operated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It will continue operating its three-times-weekly service to Riyadh, scheduled every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

ACA Video bags award

ACA Video bagged the National Consumers Excellence Award as the Most Outstanding Video Rental Chain and Most Outstanding Franchising Company for the year. The award is given by the Parangal ng Bayan Awards Foundation and the National Consumers Council.

Now on its 10th year, the National Consumers Business Excellence Award is conferred to outstanding consumer companies. This year's awards panel is headed by Justice Regina Benitez and Presidential Consultant on Civic Affairs Justo Cruz.

ACA Video was established in 1991 with its first outlet in Quezon Avenue. It was envisioned to be a completely different video store offering the widest selection of all-original home video titles in all the standard formats in a bigger and well-lit store environment. With the success of its first outlet, ACA opened other branches in Greenhills and Alabang. By 1994, ACA Video expanded its provincial operations in key areas like Cebu, Iloilo Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and other franchise branches in the Visayas-Mindanao area.

In 1995, ACA Video decided to accelerate its expansion program by offering to qualified investors the ACA Video Franchise Package. ACA Video takes pride for being the first local video rental/sales business to offer a franchise. As of December 2000, ACA Video has more than a hundred stores nationwide.

Citibank's Platinum card

CITIBANK, N.A., the country's largest credit card issuer, launched yesterday the Citibank Platinum Visa card in the market.

The new credit card redefines payment convenience and spending power with its unique set of exclusive privileges, Citibank Customer franchise director Maripi Jalandoni said.

For one, it has an exceptionally high credit limit of as much as P5 million, enough to purchase a new luxury car or a new condominium unit. Citibank Platinum Visa also introduces the Fly for Free program, where cardholders flying business class or first class with Philippine Airlines will not only receive a complimentary companion ticket but also be eligible to earn a bonus roundtrip ticket for free.

"Clearly, Citibank Platinum Visa will appeal to a select group—a growing segment of the affluent market whose active lifestyle demands more than just a regular credit card," Jalandoni related.

"With Citibank Platinum Visa, we are also affirming our strong commitment to constantly innovate our products and services, to meet the changing needs of the customer," added Jalandoni.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Citibank Hong Kong introduced the first Platinum card in 1988. Since then, the Platinum card has enjoyed a steadily growing number of cardholders, most of who are frequent travelers.

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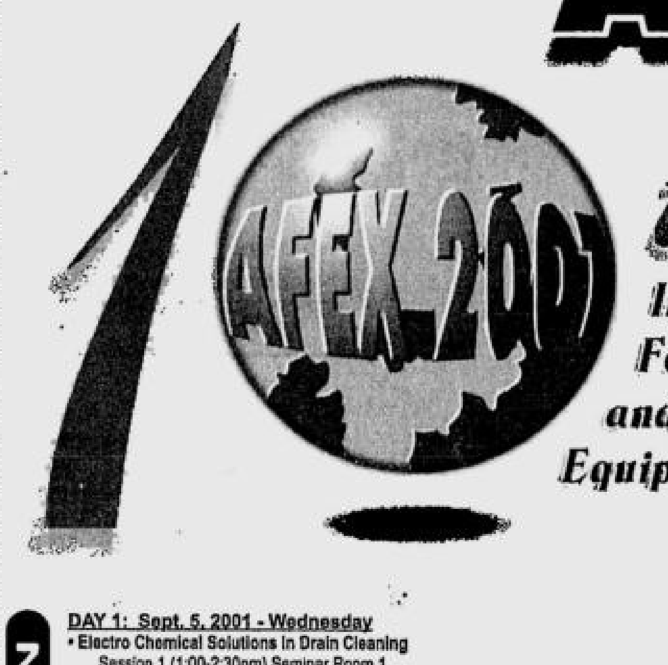

International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging, and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology

TECHNICAL SEMINARS / PRODUCT PRESENTATION

DAY 1: Sept. 5, 2001 - Wednesday
- Electro Chemical Solutions in Drain Cleaning
  Session 1 (1:00-2:30pm) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Ridge Tool Company (Phils.)
- Net Weight Control
  Session 2 (1:00-2:30pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Edward Keller (Phils.) Inc.
- Gum Arabic Looking To The Future
  Session 3 (2:30-4:00pm) Seminar 1
  Presented by: Jumbo Trading Co. Ltd.
- The Advantage of Pulp Packaging
  Session 4 (2:30-4:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Jomaray-Pulp Packaging Industries
- Lubrication in the Food Industry
  Session 5 (4:00-5:30pm) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Pilipinas-Shell Petroleum Corp.
- Buckwheat Production & Uses
- Basics On Cellulose Casing
  Session 6 (4:00-5:30pm) Seminar 2
  Presented by: GCH International Mercantile, Inc.

DAY 2: Sept. 6 - Thursday
- How To Franchise Your Business
  Session 7 (9:00-5:30pm) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.
- DHA Omega 3-Its About Life!
  Session 8 (10:30-12:00am) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Edward Keller (Phils.) Inc.
- Flour Quality, Flour Specification and Types For Bread and Cake Making
  Session 9 (1:00-2:30pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Edward Keller (Phils.) Inc.
- Alternative Refrigerant R12 & R22
  Session 10 (2:30-4:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Bock Asia Pte. Ltd.
- Application of Specialty Wheat Starches on Baking Food Products
  Session 11 (4:00-5:30pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Versa Group
- Baking Demonstration
  Session 12 (5:00-7:30pm) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Purechem Corporation/Ferna Corp.
- Mecaplastics Thermoforming & Tray Sealing Machines / Vacuum & Modified Atmosphere Packaging / Aseptic & UHT Filling / Gross Weighing-Bagging Machine
  Session 13 (5:30-7:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Europ Continents

DAY 3: Sept. 7 - Friday
- How To Buy A Franchise
  Session 14 (9:00-5:30pm) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.
- Inulin & Oligofructose
  Session 15 (10:30-12:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Angliss Phils. / Orafti Active Food Ing.
- Pasta Machine Demonstration
  Session 16 (2:30-4:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: A Taste Of Italy Enterprises
- Ishida Scale Printer New Technology
  Session 17 (2:30-4:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: First Philippine Scales, Inc.
- Freixenet Cavas (Sparkling Wine)
  Session 18 (4:00-5:30pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: ADP-Freixenet S.A.

DAY 4: Sept. 8 - Saturday
- Customer Service
  Session 19 (9:00-5:30pm) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.
- Product Demonstration
  Session 20 (10:30-12:00nn) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Mix Plant, Inc.
- Basic Layer Cakes
  Session 21 (1:00-2:30pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Plmico Foods Corp./ Plmico-Mauri Foods Corp.
- Distillers Equip: - Vapor Compression Still / Thermodrive Still / Pure Steam Generator PuroPure-Single & Multi Effect Still
  Session 22 (2:30-4:00pm) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: H20 Plus Water Treatment Co.

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Malaysian firms to bid for Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALAYSIA'S largest utility firm would lead two other Malaysian firms in a consortium that would bid for the National Power Corp.'s power generating assets, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said yesterday.

In a news statement, Perez said officials of Tenaga Nasional Bhd informed him of their plans to buy Napocor's assets in a private meeting held in Kuala Lumpur during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Malaysia earlier this month.

Tenaga Nasional serves over 5 million customers throughout Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and has more than $14.2 billion worth of assets. A subsidiary, TNB Generation, has a total generating capacity of 7,100 megawatts, or 61 percent of the total electricity generated in Peninsular Malaysia.

Tenaga Nasional will team up with YTL Power International Bhd. and Powertech in its bid to acquire Napocor's assets. YTL Power is involved in the operation of two natural gas-fired generators in the states of Terengganu and Johor. These power plants have a total generating capacity of 1,208 mw.

Perez said Tenaga Nasional and its partners had asked to see Napocor's privatization plan as well as the bidding rules for the sale of its assets.

He said in June that he expected the privatization plan to be submitted to Malacañang this month.

This, however, would have to wait the approval of the implementing rules of the Electricity Industry Reform Act, which would not be ready until the end of the year.

He said Napocor's privatization would start with the sale of the Transmission Co. early next year.

"We want to attract more buyers for the generation companies, and this would be more likely if they know a world-class operator would be managing Transco," Perez said.

Landbank to release ₱6B in agri loans

By Christine A. Gaylican

LAND BANK of the Philippines will start issuing this month some P6 billion for re-lending to rural banks.

Landbank first vice president Wilfredo Maldia said the government financial institution would release these funds to members of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines that, in turn, would lend the money to the agriculture sector.

Maldia said the loans would be used to finance low-cost housing projects and long-term small to medium-scale agricultural projects.

He said coursing Landbank's funds through rural banks would be beneficial and strategic for small agriculture farmers, as these banks had a wider reach with their 1,100 branches nationwide.

Landbank has programmed some P12 billion for small farmers and fisherfolk this year and another P9 billion for large companies undertaking agricultural projects.

"As of the first quarter, we have already released some P574 million for a rediscounting facility for small farmers," Maldia reported.

"Here, Landbank stretches from 85 percent to 100 percent its rediscounting facility and lending windows for rural financial institutions, such as banks, to encourage them to lend to farmers and fishers with no collateral," he said.

He said drawing this re-lending program with rural banks should improve Landbank's asset base because it would tap unused assets that had dragged on the bank's profitability and increased costs of financial intermediation.

The Asian Development Bank earlier warned that the Philippine rural banking industry remained under stress because of the sector's high level of nonperforming assets.

As of end-2000, the rural banking industry reported an NPA ratio to total assets of 20 percent as opposed to the entire banking sector's 13.1 percent. "This is far too high by any measure," the ADB said.

Japan agrees to co-finance dam rehab

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE JAPANESE government has agreed to co-finance the rehabilitation of the P610-million Afterbay Dam irrigation project of the National Irrigation Administration.

NIA Administrator Jesus Emmanuel Paras reported to Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor that the project design has already been approved and construction was scheduled to begin in October.

Once completed, Paras said the project would irrigate 3,946 hectares of rice lands in Central Luzon and benefit 2,820 farmers in the area.

"This would translate to an increase in rice production and farmers' income by at least P155 million over a period of five years," Paras said.

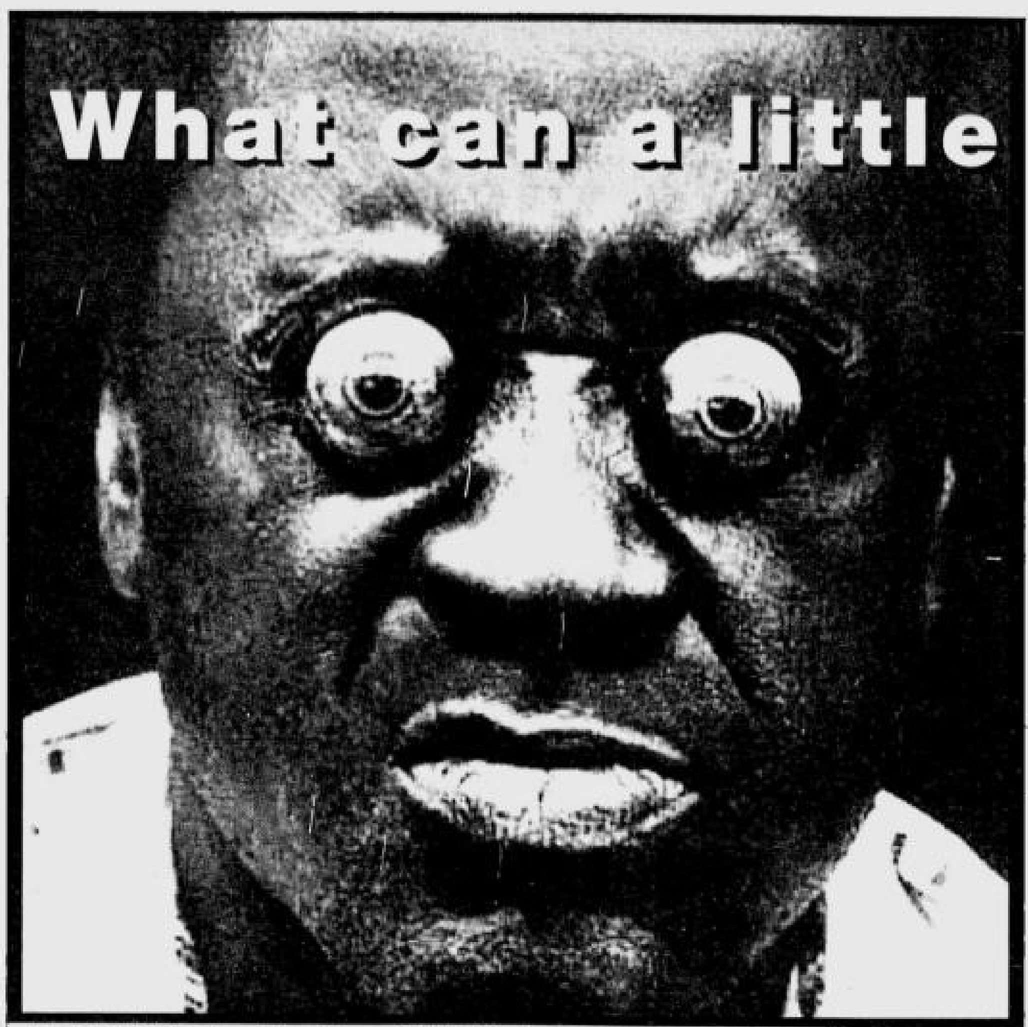
Japanese contractor CTI Engineering International Co. Ltd. has completed the project design and expected to finish the project by March 2003.

The Afterbay Dam is one of five irrigation projects worth P14.5 billion that the Japanese government, through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, has committed to finance. These are expected to be completed over the next two to three years.

Japanese funding agencies are the biggest financiers of irrigation projects, accounting for 70 percent of the cost. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank provides the rest.

Other irrigation projects in the pipeline include the P3.5-billion Casecnan Multipurpose Project, P623-million Tarlac Groundwater Irrigation System Reactivation Project, P3.4-billion Pampanga Delta Development Project, P2.5-billion Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project, P2.1-billion Lower Agusan Development Project and the P2.38 billion Bohol Irrigation Project.

NIA is also rushing to complete the P2.5-billion Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation project in Pikit and Carmen, North Cotabato and Pagalungan and Pagagawan, Maguindanao, which has been stalled by security problems in the area.



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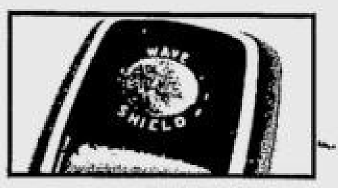

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GMA administration's vision can be funded

By Edgardo B. Espiritu

COMMENTARY

IN HER State of the Nation Address delivered at the opening of the 12th Congress, President Macapagal-Arroyo outlined her vision for the country. In general, it was well received. Personally, I think it is a bold yet clear and simple vision. The Sona addresses the most pressing problems of the country, particularly poverty, and sets attainable targets and offers doable solutions.

We have initially identified a number of such non-budgetary, non-debt funds sourcing exercises that can be undertaken and completed within the next six to 10 months. We conservatively estimate that a total of over P80 billion can be generated from these sources, which amount will be over and above the amounts that can be generated through the government's regular revenue program under this year's and next year's budget.

Various securitization projects

An important approach that can be applied to a number of potential cases is the securitization of the assets or even of future revenues of the government and its instrumentalities. Under this approach, which is already widely accepted in today's financial markets, we can monetize existing assets or already use in advance future receipts to fund large and lumpy public investment projects that can accelerate development. In fact, there are currently already a number of such securitization projects in the pipeline. Too, the passage of a comprehensive securitization law as one of the priority legislation mentioned in the Sona will greatly facilitate the development of this particular financing mode and the realization of its benefits.

One of the biggest undertakings in this regard is the forthcoming securitization of the royalties to be earned by the national government and the province of Palawan from the Camago-Malampaya natural gas project. It is conservatively estimated that the national government and Palawan can monetize now through this exercise a total of about $800 million, or roughly P40 billion, of future revenue flows.

Another major securitization exercise pertains to the national government's share in future revenues of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which is estimated to bring another P20 billion into the government's coffers.

We can also securitize part of the assets and receivables of various other government-owned and controlled corporations. Certain GOCCs own valuable properties or have outstanding receivables that can be monetized through this process and used for priority projects.

Housing finance

Moreover, given that housing, particularly for the poor, is one of the four priority concerns of your administration, much of the effort must be directed at raising funds for this purpose. In this regard, we note that Secretary Mike Defensor of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council is already working on an immediate source of funding, namely, the sale and liquidation of the existing portfolio of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. With the proceeds from the sale, the NHMFC can again actively purchase the mortgages originated by banks, thereby providing much needed liquidity for the home lending activities of the financial system. Such an approach can also be applied to Pag-Ibig Fund or the Home Development Mutual Fund, but no estimate is given here yet.

Still in the area of housing finance, it may be emphasized that the bulk of financing for new homes will still be provided by banks and other financial institutions, and this is facilitated and promoted by the guaranty mechanism provided by the Home Guaranty Corp. An increase in HGC capitalization has the potential of making available additional credit for housing of 20 times that amount since it increases HGC's guaranty capacity by the same multiple. This is an area where non-budgetary funding is particularly important. It may be noted that only P300 million has been appropriated for additional HGC capital under this year's budget and only P500 million is proposed under next year's budget. But if we are able to generate funds from the foregoing creative approaches, then we can carve out a substantial amount, say, P10 billion, as new infusion into HGC, and this would, in turn, have the potential of generating another P200 billion in housing loans. Moreover, with the greater amount available for housing loan guarantees, social security institutions can help further provide liquidity by purchasing notes in the secondary mortgage market, which they can do since the loans are guaranteed.

Possible application of funds

The estimated P80 billion in fresh funds derived from the creative approaches I discussed can be used for the priority programs identified in the Sona, except that the funds generated through the sale of NHMFC's portfolio, which will have to be devoted to its mortgage purchase operations. For instance, as already mentioned, additional capital can be infused into HGC, say P10 billion, which can be leveraged to generate P200 billion in new housing loans.

Likewise, a good part can be used to speed up agricultural modernization, say P15 billion, and this will be over and above the around P20 billion that will be provided through the budget and the agri-agra reform bonds. These new funds can be used for the development of more irrigation and postharvest facilities as well as for more NFA rolling stores. Moreover, the government can infuse additional capital into agriculture-oriented GFIs, particularly Land Bank of the Philippines and the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., say P5 billion. This can, in turn, be leveraged to potentially generate an additional P50 billion in loans to agriculture.

These funds can also be a source to finally substantially implement the much-needed modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, say P10 billion. But, of course, a big portion of the funds, say P35 billion, will have to go to the provision of basic services such as education and health, which will, in turn, serve as the basis of increases in overall productivity and future growth.

Fresh funds and savings

A majer source of fresh funds and savings that the public may not be too aware of yet is the implementation of the recently enacted power reform law. It is true, however, that these benefits will be felt only in the medium-term.

The sale of the National Power Corp.'s power generation companies and part of or a concession over the transmission company is estimated to bring in anywhere between $3 billion and $5 billion, roughly P150 billion to P250 billion, in privatization proceeds over the next two to three years. Although this would have to be used to cover part of the liabilities to be assumed by the government over the long term, it would provide substantial immediate relief to our fiscal position.

But the savings, in terms of the elimination of the drain on public resources that Napocor used to impose, will be very substantial. To get an idea of the magnitudes involved, it had been estimated that from 1994 to 1999, the annual average funding deficit of Napocor that the public sector had to shoulder was about P10 billion; the subsidies, equity infusions and tax exemptions that the national government had to grant to it, about P6 billion yearly; and, the government-guaranteed external borrowings that had to be resorted to refinance Napocor's existing debt, about P13 billion yearly; for a total estimated savings of about P29 billion to P30 billion yearly.

In addition, the greater efficiency in the power industry and resulting lower power rates would bring further savings not only for government but also for consumers and industries.

Private sector participation

Another major form of non-budgetary finance is, of course, the various modes of private sector participation in public infrastructure and other projects under the build-operate-transfer law. The country already has had substantial success in employing such financing schemes in priority areas (e.g., mass transit, tollways, water). There are currently major projects in the pipeline that are being financed this way, such as the three light rail transit projects that are already under construction and the two new ones already in advanced stages of project preparation, a number of tollway projects and administrative systems projects, such as the one for land registration.

Savings to be realized

It is, of course, widely acknowledged that a large part of government resources is lost or wasted because of graft and corruption. Estimates of these resources, such as those made by the World Bank in its recent study on corruption in the country, range from 30 percent to 40 percent of the government's annual budget. With the government's intensified program to fight graft and corruption, we, therefore, stand to gain considerable amounts of savings and, therefore, new resources for development. But, of course, we will realize these gains only in the long term and after a lot of hard and determined effort.

The financing options I just discussed range from those immediately doable in the next several months to those that can only be accomplished in the long term. I believe that we should actively pursue all of them simultaneously. We must strive to marshal all possible resources now at this critical juncture in our country's history. We are, at this time, trying to build a solid foundation upon which the quality of life and opportunities open to future generations of Filipinos will depend. Some may jeer at the President's presentation of the three Payatas children and call it soap, but I thought it was very apt for these children represent the country's future. What we do to improve their chances of survival and to give them a crack at a decent life will be the legacy not only of this government but also of our generation. We cannot afford to fail.

(The author is a former finance secretary under the Estrada administration.)

Money supply growth slows to 13% in June

(From page B4)

where will they put the money?" the central bank chief asked.

Buenaventura said the 15-percent target growth in domestic liquidity would be reduced to a level that is still being determined by the BSP's economic research team.

The 15-percent target growth in domestic liquidity was premised on a gross domestic product growth of 3.8 to 4.3 percent but the government has already downgraded the GDP growth target to a range of 3.3 to 3.8 percent.

The National Economic and Development Authority had voiced plans of downscaling the GDP growth targets anew as analysts and economists believed growth would only reach 2.5 to 3 percent at best.

In the first quarter, economic growth as measured by the GDP only reached 2.5 percent. The government believes GDP growth in the second quarter would increase to between 2.8 and 3 percent.

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Gov't targets higher farm sector growth

AGRICULTURE Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said yesterday he hoped that the farm sector would post growth of between 3 and 3.5 percent in the second half of the year.

Montemayor nominated his "fighting target" in a telephone interview with Reuters after the government said the sector grew by 3.01 percent in the first half, just beating his earlier projection of between 2.8 percent and 3 percent for the period.

"We hope that we can maintain a growth of 3 to 3.5 percent in the second half," Montemayor said.

He said he expected the damage caused by typhoon Utor in corn-growing areas in July to be offset by gains by other sectors such as fisheries, poultry and livestock.

The agricultural sector, which accounts for one-fifth of the economy's total output, posted year on year growth of 1.34 percent in the first half of 2000.

The Department of Agriculture said earlier it expected agricultural sector growth to come in at 3 percent this year despite some bad weather.

"We are optimistic that a 3-percent growth this year can still be attained," Assistant Agriculture Secretary Segrefredo Serrano said in a seminar.

"The growth will come despite typhoons, mostly from the livestock and poultry sectors and high-value crops," he said.

A typhoon in early July is estimated to have destroyed some 180,000 tons of corn, according to government estimates.

The country's paddy rice production grew by 2.3 percent in the first six months of the year to 5.6 million metric tons.

Serrano said early palay harvests during this period prevented the destruction of crops by bad weather.

Corn production yields, however, were not spared as typhoons trimmed yields to 858 million metric tons from April to June as compared with 1,071 billion metric tons in the first quarter.

With the strong output of the country's farm sector, the government said growth should reach the high end of its target this year.

"Because of agriculture's very robust growth we expect our targets for (GDP) this year to be on the high end of our estimates of 3.3 to 3.8 percent this year," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a news conference.

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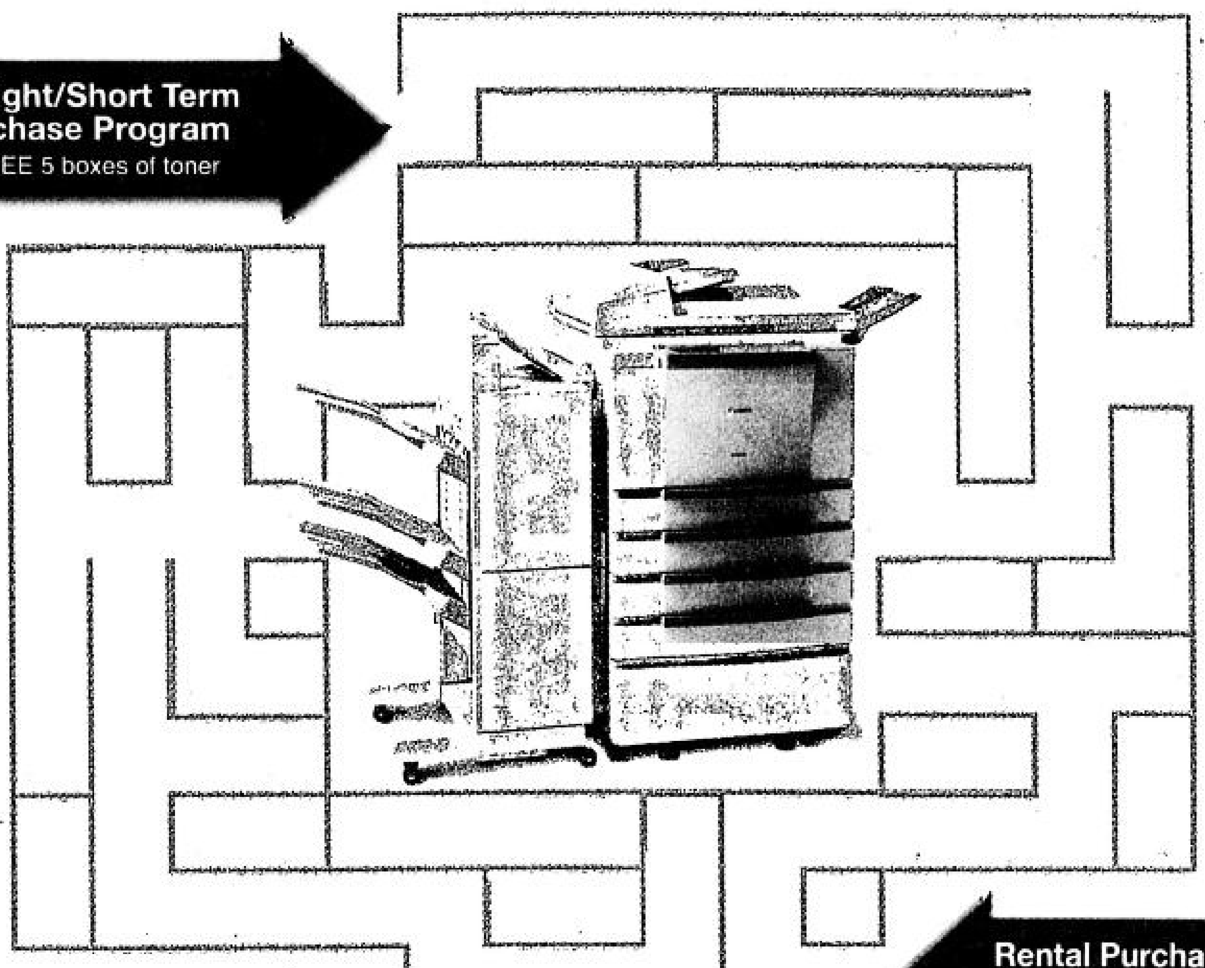

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EDGE OF RECESSION

Japan further relaxes ultra-loose policies

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan surprised financial markets on Tuesday by further loosening its already ultra-easy monetary policy, its fourth credit easing this year in a bid to pull Japan's economy from the edge of recession.

The central bank, moving earlier than expected, expanded its so-called quantitative easing policy by raising its target for bank reserves and by increasing the amount of Japanese government bonds (JGBs) it buys monthly from the market.

It means the central bank is trying harder to force-feed banks with virtually free money, although it has repeatedly warned that structural problems in the banking sector are limiting the amount of funds flowing into businesses.

"This is a slightly positive surprise, which scored a success judging from initial market reaction to the news," said Tomoko Fujii, an economist at Nikko Salomon Smith Barney in Tokyo.

"The BOJ finally moved into the next stage by announcing the expansion of the outright purchase of JGBs to boost fund liquidity."

The Nikkei average of Japanese blue-chip share prices, which had fallen to 16-year lows only a day earlier, jumped 4 percent after the BOJ announcement. Banks, which stand to benefit from the increased flow of funds, shot higher after the news. Yields on government bonds dropped.

Some analysts saw the move as a response to pressure from the government that has mounted as stocks have fallen.

"Perhaps the BOJ was looking at the political pressure and wants to put the ball back in the government's court (to get on with structural reform)," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Morgan Stanley Japan.

The easing measures consist primarily of raising the target for financial institutions' current account deposits parked at the central bank to 6 trillion yen ($49 billion) from 5 trillion yen by injecting more funds into the money market.

Current deposits—commonly called reserves—plus cash and notes in circulation form the monetary base, which is the basic building block of loan and money growth.

But some economists, noting bank lending has fallen for 43 months in a row despite ample liquidity, argue that creating more bank reserves is akin to pushing on a string because it is the demand for loans, not the supply, that is lacking.

Economists said the easing appeared aimed at cushioning Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's planned painful reforms, but most agreed it might have only a small impact on bolstering the economy.

"It's absolutely cosmetic. They had to show some easing effort and this is their reaction to pressure," Vincent Musumeci, economist at ABN AMRO in Tokyo.

"It doesn't change the fact that monetary policy is ineffective. It doesn't make any difference since rates are at zero."

The BOJ also expanded its monthly purchases of long-term JGBS to 600 billion yen from 400 billion yen to boost credit market liquidity. The central bank said the decision was by a majority vote. *Reuters*

South Korea to liquidate 49 firms

SEOUL, South Korea—The government's Financial Supervisory Service said Tuesday that 49 of 455 companies subject to mandatory review by creditors would be liquidated. Those firms could not survive on their own, the government said.

Officials hoped the action would dispel uncertainties over South Korea's slumping stock market and woo back investors.

Analysts said the move might fall short of expectations because most of the firms to be liquidated were small and insignificant.

The only major firm on the list is Dong Ah Construction Industrial Co., the nation's fifth largest builder. The troubled firm was already stripped of court receivership in March, a move that was certain to lead to liquidation.

"It'll have no more than a cosmetic effect on the market," said Kim Chul-joong, an analyst at JP Morgan Chase & Co. "Even without the liquidation order, those firms have no chances to survive."

Tuesday's announcement represented a second-phase assessment of a total of 1,544 heavily indebted firms the government said would require periodic scrutiny by creditors.

In its first review in June, the government's financial regulator screened 102 firms and ruled 24 as "nonviable."

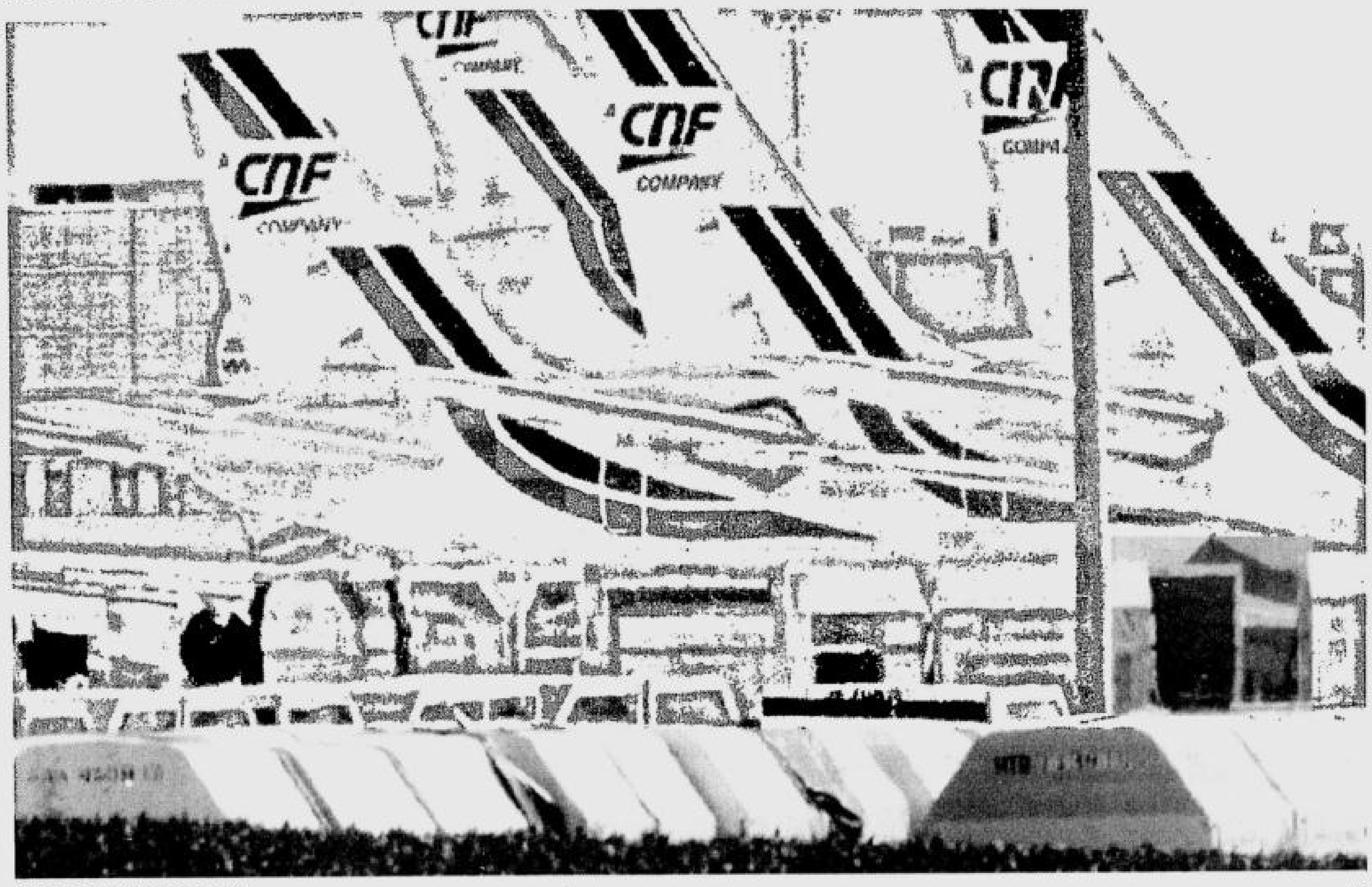
The review was in line with a new evaluation system introduced by the government earlier this year to speed up corporate reforms.

About two dozen conglomerates collapsed during the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, forcing South Korea to bail out its sinking economy with help from the International Monetary Fund.

Experts warn that South Korea still has many firms teetering on the brink of bankruptcy with huge nonperforming bank loans.

There were no surprises on the list of the 49 companies that were ordered to be liquidated Tuesday. Most are small- or medium-size firms already under court receivership or government debt workout programs.

The 406 firms that avoided liquidation on Tuesday will be given the right to apply for new loans from government-controlled creditor institutions, officials said. *AFP*



GROUNDED FLEET AP

Emery Worldwide Airlines cargo planes, with the name of Emery's parent company, CNF, emblazoned on their tails, sit at the Emery ramp at the Dayton International Airport in Dayton, Ohio. Emery Worldwide Airlines suspended its air carrier operations under an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration. The Washington Post said the FAA had found so many maintenance problems that it was preparing to ground the Emery fleet.

Cheaper China keeps HK on its toes

HONG KONG—Like many people in Hong Kong, Christine Lee prefers to spend her hard-earned money across the border in southern China, where goods are often a fraction of the price.

The 29-year-old's Hong Kong dollars stretch a lot further for everything from the latest fashions to having her hair styled in one of Shenzhen city's beauty salons.

"I try to go to Shenzhen about once a month to get cheap clothes, shoes and things," she said at the border crossing.

Every day, some 200,000 of Hong Kong's 7 million people pour into China to shop, work, play or enjoy more affordable holiday homes.

Some cost-conscious Hong Kong businesses are increasingly moving operations across the border, too, lured by cheaper land and labor and the mainland's rapid economic development.

The trend is having a growing economic impact on Hong Kong, which reverted to Beijing rule in 1997 but is still struggling to define its future role and relationship with China.

Hong Kong has grown rich as the world's gateway to China, acting as a conduit for mainland exports, which have helped the territory become one of the world's 10 largest trading economies.

But with China rapidly opening to the outside world and its return to mainland rule, Hong Kong now has to contend with being just one of several successful Chinese cities. Its traditional role as the key middleman for China is no longer assured.

China has become both Hong Kong's competitor and savior.

While retailers in China enrich themselves with Hong Kong cash, their counterparts over the border are feeling the pinch.

Visitors from Hong Kong spent HK$29.4 billion ($3.8 billion) in personal trips to the mainland last year, equal to about 4 percent of total consumer spending in the territory.

Though prices have been falling for over two years due to weak demand, Hong Kong remains one of the world's most expensive cities.

"People are not spending their money here, meaning retailers have no pricing power, which is bad for deflation (falling prices), wages and ultimately consumer demand," said Hang Seng Bank senior economist Henry Tsoi.

A growing number of Hong Kong firms, meanwhile, are shifting operations to China to cut costs, raising the specter of more unemployment. The jobless rate hit 4.6 percent earlier this year.

Global banking giant HSBC Holdings fanned job fears on Tuesday when it said it would open a second back-office processing center in China in the next year.

But many analysts see this as a natural progression, which will prod Hong Kong to move higher up the value-added ladder and transform into a knowledge-based economy, just as the shift of its manufacturing base to China from the 1980s facilitated the territory's transition to a service-based economy.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. chief executive Aman Mehta told Reuters fears Hong Kong could lose out as a result were an "exceptionally narrow view." *Reuters*

Prolonged Singapore slump seen

SINGAPORE—Singapore should prepare for the possibility that its current economic downturn could stretch into 2002, the country's deputy prime minister said.

The recession-hit country is too dependent on making and exporting electronics, which are undergoing a global slump in demand, according to Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan.

"The government will take further steps to ameliorate the effects of the economic slowdown on individuals and companies in the event of a prolonged downturn in the economy," Tan said in a speech before the Economic Society of Singapore.

Tan's comments followed remarks Sunday by trade union chief and minister without portfolio Lim Boon Heng that the economy was unlikely to recover before mid-2002.

The government last month announced a S$2.2-billion ($1.3-billion) package of measures to soften the pain of the economic downturn.

The measures include infrastructure developments injecting cash into the economy and training programs to teach laid-off workers new skills.

Tan said it was worrying that Singapore's manufacturing sector, which accounted for about a quarter of the country's gross domestic products, depended largely on electronics exports.

"We should, therefore, remedy this defect in the present economic structure of over-concentration of our manufacturing sector on export of electronics products," Tan said.

Singapore, a tiny and mostly urban country of 4 million people, has no natural resources. The country depends heavily on the manufacture of electronics goods, and its key markets in the United States, Europe and Japan are seeing slow economic growth.

Singapore enjoyed a 9.9-percent economic growth last year. But for 2001, the government recently revised its official growth forecast to 0.5 to 1.5 percent, down from its earlier prediction of 3.5 to 5.5 percent.

In recent weeks, government leaders have been repeatedly warning Singaporeans to brace for hard times ahead as the country's current recession sinks in. *AP*

IMF takes precautions vs violence

WASHINGTON—Anti-globalization forces are facing a backlash in the United States after the IMF and World Bank cut short talks in fear of violent street protests.

The two institutions announced at the weekend they were truncating their next meeting from one week to just two days—Sept. 29 to 30—in an agreement with the US government.

"We are taking precautions against violence," said IMF spokesperson Bill Murray.

"There is a significant security concern and we have to take steps to assure safety for our members," he added. "The IMF has a right to meet just as people have the right to demonstrate."

Rioters gathering under the same banner as mostly-peaceful anti-globalization protesters have led a 19-month trail of escalating violence against international financial meetings.

The clashes culminated at a Group of Eight summit in Genoa, Italy last month, in which Italian police shot dead one demonstrator and fired tear gas at protesters armed with petrol bombs.

After the Genoa bloodshed, G8 leaders agreed eagerly to Canada's plan for a drastically scaled-down summit in a Rocky Mountain hideaway but they also expressed their determination to continue talks.

Mobilization for Global Justice, an umbrella group for protesters fighting the unfettered sway of world capitalism, said the latest IMF and World Bank decision was a victory.

"But we also see it as a strategic retreat" aimed at avoiding negative publicity, said the group's spokesperson, Matt Smucker. The IMF and World Bank were "feeling the pressure of the growing movement against corporate globalization," he added. *AFP*

French wine growers threatened by rivals in 'brave, new world'

PARIS—With this year's grape harvest just weeks away and facing collapsing exports, French wine producers are urgently seeking new marketing strategies to fight off the growing challenge of rivals in Australia, Chile and elsewhere.

France's share of the world market has plummeted from 49 percent in 1990 to just 22 percent in 2000, according to a recent report handed to the government.

The dramatic slip is the result of successful marketing methods and branding strategies aggressively pursued by New World competitors from the United States, Australia, Argentina and Chile, according to French wine expert Jacques Berthomeau.

"There will be a crisis if we do not give ourselves the same means already put in place by our competitors," warned Berthomeau, author of the report "How to position wines on the export market."

The figures show, for example, that exports of Burgundy wines fell by 30 percent in 2000, Loire valley wines by 22 percent and Beaujolais by 17 percent.

French wines tend to be produced by small companies with no marketing strategy, competing individually on the world market, often launching into needless competition against each other, Jean-Luc Dairien, head of the National Inter-Professional Wine Office (Onivins), explained to AFP.

He recommended the creation of "better structured and more focused" companies, that could still offer foreign buyers a wide selection from both the country's superior "appelation d'origine controlee" (AOC) wines and its cheaper vin de table, or table wines.

But the key problem, according to Berthomeau, is that "French wine-growers have had too much of a tendency to rest on their laurels."

"They haven't been able to make the change into marketing, which is essential for any sales campaign in an increasingly competitive world," he said.

With their know-how, experience and outstanding quality of their products, French wine-growers, however, still have the ability to re-conquer parts of the market.

"We have the exclusive ability to cover every part of the market, by offering an entire range of products from cheap table wines to the 'grand cru.' It is a considerable advantage that we must exploit," said Dairien.

Compounding the problem is the steep decline in French domestic consumption, which has fallen by 50 percent in 40 years. There is already major over-production of table wines.

In September, Onivins will launch a round of talks between wine growers and consumers to develop a long-term plan and provide better information on market trends to producers.

Burgundy has already drawn up a five-year plan, which seeks to raise production standards and build a better dialogue with consumers.

But if it needs any lessons, France should look at the United States or Australia, where long-term commercial development plans have long been in place. In Australia, exports grew by 20 percent from 1999 to 2000. *AFP*

Lucent paid fired executives millions

TRENTON, New Jersey—Lucent Technologies has made several million dollars in severance payments to two top executives fired amid long-running financial problems at the telecommunications giant.

Richard McGinn and Deborah Hopkins received lump-sum and other payments totaling more than $10 million, the Murray Hill-based company reported in a routine quarterly filing submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday.

Lucent's severance agreements with McGinn, who was fired as chief executive on Oct. 23, 2000, and with Hopkins, the chief financial officer who was fired May 4, cover all their legal costs related to the end of their employment and bar them from suing Lucent.

McGinn received a lump-sum payment of $5.5 million and would be reimbursed for office and secretarial expenses through December.

As a 30-year employee of Lucent and predecessor companies such as AT&T Corp., he will separately receive a pension worth approximately $1 million annually, plus life insurance and health and dental coverage.

Hopkins received a lump sum of $3.3 million combining salary and bonus. The company also paid her for about 120,000 shares in unvested stock that she held, along with another 15,000 restricted shares that had matured.

"These are all finalized, signed and completed" agreements with Hopkins and McGinn, company spokesperson Bill Price said Monday evening. "This is one more step in putting the past behind us and focusing on the future." *AP*

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TWO Japanese men, in silhouette, look at the electric stock quotation board at a Tokyo brokerage on Tuesday. A day after hitting a near 17-year low, the Nikkei average shot up 186.77 points to end the morning session at 11,664.33.

AP

McDonald's to bare secrets

OAK BROOK, Illinois—McDonald's announced it would begin providing the specific source—dairy, meat or vegetable—of the natural flavorings in some menu items to address customer requests and complaints.

The information will be available on the company's website and in pamphlets in its restaurants in the United States.

The company had used the current state and federal guidelines for labeling, a system that does not specifically describe the nature of a "natural flavor."

"Some of our customers have told us that current state and federal labeling standards do not give them as much information as they want to answer their dietary questions," said McDonald's Ken Koziol in a statement. *AP*

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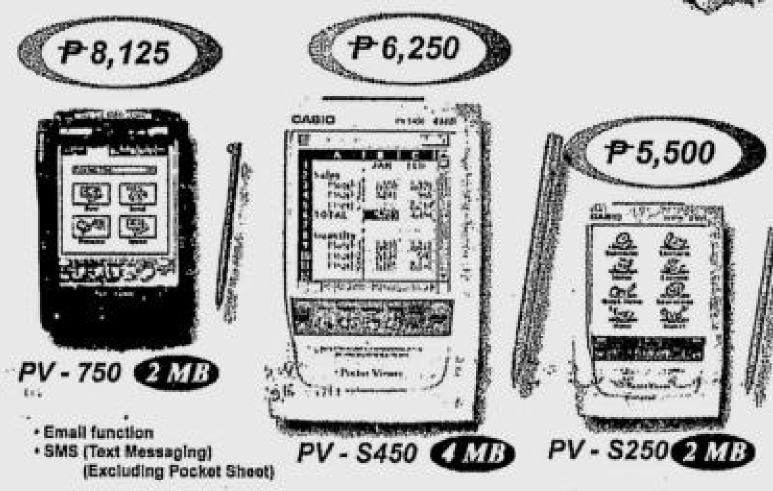

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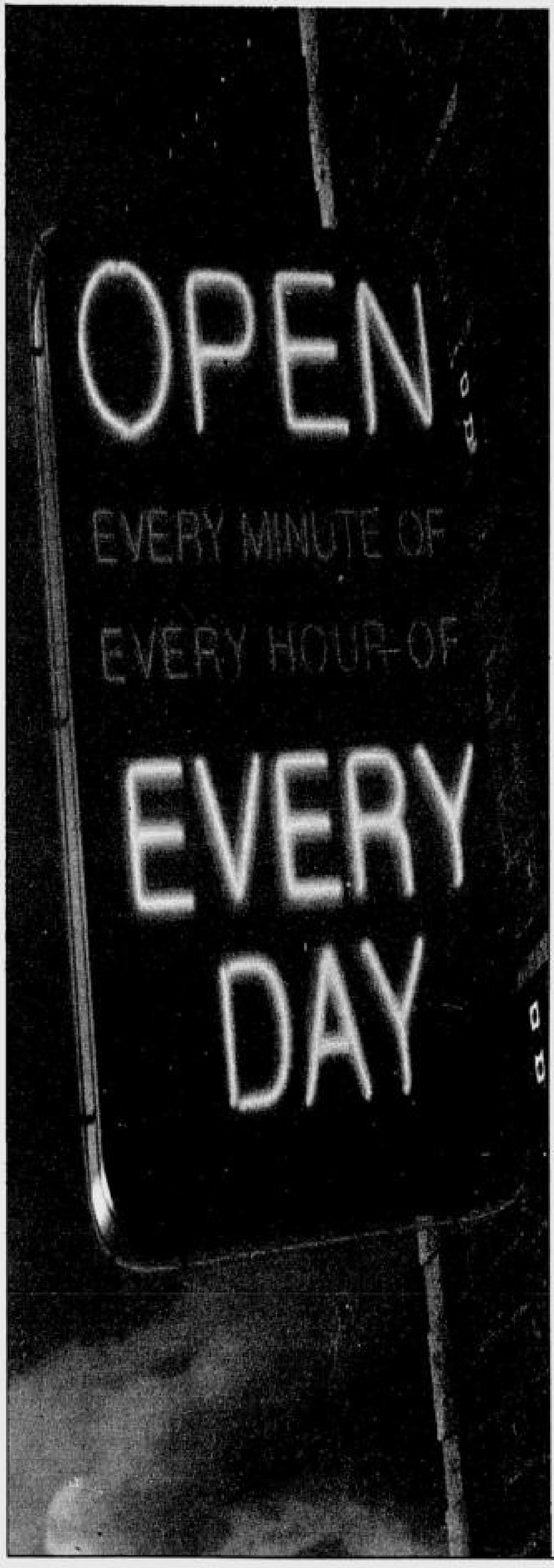

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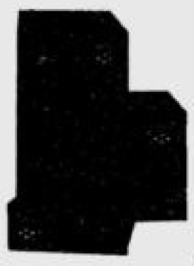

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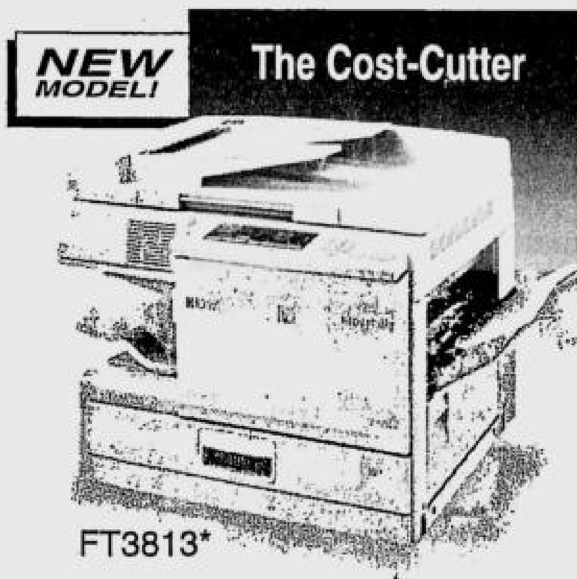

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L-BAHAY 712-16-92

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

•LIPAT•731-6833

P900/TRIP 7421457

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 8207068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

450FA 168LA 3Stry Bldg. Taft Ave. • 0917-4149898

PROVINCIAL

★SUBIC 80+has.★
047-9134120•09175406292

VARIOUS AREAS

Southwood Fway
AYALA SOUTHVALE
BelAir 2Sty
TEL 8712461

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Semi Furnished 3BR 2TB Contact Alma 873-3324

MAKATI

Bonifacio Ridge Makati
Pre-Selling Call 928-1469

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income 928-1469

Holiday Inn
Eat on Mkti Good Income Call 928-1469

MANILA

Apo St. Sta. Mesa HgtL280 D-Buyer Tel. #928-1469

MAKATI ZOBEL ROXAS
BNew Thse 4sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

600LA 328FA LGVillas 6.3M 3BR w/Pool • 0917-4149898

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PASIG

467 LA 500 FA W/Pool
VVI P16M • 0917-4149898

Nice Valle Verde 1 H&L 4BR w/Pool Rush! 635-6722

Dona Juana Subd., Pasig
4.1M 3BR • 915-5177

QUEZON CITY

L-800m^2 MindanaoAve QC Comml Call 928-1469

Apo St. SMH L280 VLOt Tel. #928-1469

SFDM QC L624 Whse 2Sty W/ Hse Tel. #928-1469

SFDM QC L624m^2 wHse 2sty wHse Tel. #928-1469

D Tuazon SMH Q.C
L411m^2 2sty D-Buyer Call 928-1469

BAESA Q.C. LA932sqm 4-Ind • Tel. 928-1469

Baler QC
L2000m^2 Call 928-1469

Baler St. Q.C. L3000 W/Hse Call 928-1469

Baler St. QC
L3000 Whse Call 928-1469

D. Tuazon SMH QC 411m^2 2Stry 928-1469

City Homes Maligaya Prk near SM Fairview 9612353

Congressional Ave Q.C
Comm'l Lot L471m^2 Call 928-1469

Del Monte
L1800M VL071 Tel 928-1469

Fairview QC
L1000M VLot Tel 928-1469

L-1800M^2 Visayas Ave. Comml w/Income 928-1469

L-406m^2 Short Horn Proj 8 Comml Lot Call 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
LOT AND 2-STOREY BUILDING

AREA : 3,634.5 SQ.M.
LOCATION : 1295 G. Araneta Avenue corner N. Amoranto Street, Brgy. Sto. Domingo Quezon City
CALL : REYNALDO A. OCAMPO
Tel. Nos. 740-4924, 711-4031

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ RUSH! P1.4M DBO
SN PEDRO 7 SUBD
nr Channel 5 NOVA
LA144 FA60 2BR w/grge
418-6533•0917-4648956

•LA VISTA 5br Twnhse•
7M neg Call 435-2346

•Loyola Grand Villas•
4BR 8M NEG. 435-2346

Mayon Hse & Lot SMHts
900m^2 • 534-6610 Jojo

Mindanao Ave Comm'l LOT L-785 VLOT 928-1469

Mindanao Ave Comm'l
Lot L800M^2 DBuyer Call 928-1469

New MLA Q.C
L3082m^2 P20M D Call 928-1469

New Mla Rollin Hills L-258 2Stry 4BR 2Car 928-1469

Nr Rbinson,SMFview 260m^2 only P980T "cheap"4140418

Philamlife 3BR • 915-5177

Proj 6 QC Townhouse P2.9M L-100m^2 928-1469

Rolling Hill New Mla
L258 2STY 4Br 2Car Tel 928-1469

RUSH GOODWILL HOMES 1 3BR & 2TB 246m^2 4M(neg) Call Luz 9353921

Sacrifice Sale Owner
Leaving Town & Country
Marilao Bulacan LA180m^2 FA165m^2 2storey 3BR 4T&B 2car garage P2M 415-8218

SANTOL 420m^2 w/5DR Apt
P6.5M 410-8189 Wilson

RIZAL

FREE of Flood & Faultline
NR ORTIGAS EXT
Cainta Nr Gate&Sec Guard New French Very Strong 3BR 2c'portBung Lot:172m^2
P2.2M T9488240/ 9334971

SAN JUAN

AIC Gold Tower Ortigas
2Br W/ Den/ 1Car Tel 928-1469

Sn Juan 100m^2 H&L 532-3936

PROVINCIAL

Tagatay L249M^2 2Sty 3Br, 3Tb Ice Tel 928-1469

Tagatay L286M^2 2Sty 3Br, 3Tb Ice Tel 928-1469

Tagaytay Candonwood Club
Shares Call 928-1469

Tagaytay L286m^2 2sty 3BR 3TB
1Car Call 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M 0917-8143792

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Various Mandaluyong Lots
534-6610 • Jojo

MARIKINA

MASUNAG, nr Sta. Lucia, 2,500/sq 120 SQ, 5 YRS-PAY, 242-1521

MUNTINLUPA

Rush! Susana Heights 525sqm P6500 726-8103 M-F

PARANAQUE

Merville South Admiral Rush! 460sqm 726-8103 M-F

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

LOT

PASIG

•Cheap Residential Lot• 200sqm Int. Concito St. San Juaquin Pasig City 400T Only 642-4700 LARRY

PARKWOOD P6th/m^2 9126833

QUEZON CITY

Marcos H-way Comm'l Lot L317 VLot Tel. #928-1469

BAESA Q.C. LA932sqm 4-Ind • Tel. 928-1469

Del Monte
L1800m^2 V-Lot Call 928-1469

Fairview Q.C
L1000m^2 V-Lot Call 928-1469

New Mla Rollin Hills L-725 V. LOT Cor. LOT 9281469

SANVILLE 400Sqm UP P10T/Sqm Call 928-4431

SFDM QC Lincoln St, L-714 VLOT Call 928-1469

T.MORATO COR LOT 1202m^2 26T/m^2 D-BUYER 09195860803

PROVINCIAL

Comm'l/Ind'l LOT Nr. Ford Motor Call 633-7601-03

Dasarinas Cavite
2774m^2 4Whse Tel 928-1469

Malinta Bulacan
7049V Lot Alg Hway Tel 928-1469

Nice Lot Nr. New St. Scho. in Sta. Rosa Laguna 6337601/03

Open House Canyon Wood Invited Tagaytay 928-1469

Proj.4 11T/m^2 Neg. 645-3731

Tagaytay a clean & cool air city no DP 926-0185

Tagaytay w/View 5,802m^2 2T /SQM or Best Offer • 6337601-03

Tanza Cavite Lot
1.5Hect Comm'l Lot 1T/m^2 Tel 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

1-16HAS LAGUNA HWY 30/M^2 GOOD INVESTMENT 3740433

VARIOUS AREAS

Valenzuela McArthur Hi-way 7000sqm 726-8103 M-F

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

3BDRM-F/F Skyland Mkti
Good loc. w/tel & pkg.
P65T/mo. (negotiable)
Call: 8926605/8189781

MANILA

K.B. Lepanto II Bldg. Condo 31m^2 1BR 950T Sampaloc Mla. Cell. 0917-4280760 • 0917-7888727

MANDALUYONG

C. SHAW TWR P1.37M Studio 27.6m^2 B/S Shngrla 532-9551

Rush! Pioneer Highlands 2br 3.8M DBO09178143792

Various Mandaluyong
T'houses • 534-6610 Jojo

VARIOUS WACK' CONDO
534-6610 • Jojo

PASIG

235 FA 3BR Renaissance 3 Cor. Unit Raquel 634-1212

Pacific Place 2BR 101m^2 W/Parking P4M 633-7601/03

Phoenix Condo 3BR 135m^2 P5.2M
412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Pioneer Hi-Lands
3BR 6M 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PASIG

Renaissance 2000
1BR W/ Pkng 915-5177

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

32SQ Merchant Square P1M
Tel. 0917-4149898

4 BR Nr. New Manila
P6M Neg. 0917-8986655

63SQ 1BR P. Tuazon St. P1.2
Tel. 0917-4149898

Condo. P. David Katipunan
1BR Prkg • 915-5177

Congressional RD
3BR FA350 7.5M 915-5177

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term 9126976/9132224/4381161

El Jardin Studios Bnew
2M W/ Pkng Call 915-5177

Or For Rent Condo Call Tel 726-4005 or 942-7689

Promo until Sunday Comp amnts RFO nr UP NCBA hosp mkt 50Tldp 14-30T/ no down 3yrs 0%Int w/ cbnts rangehood dresser •Movers Dev't & Mrktg• 4210734 /4211350/4487133

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

OTHER AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
829-5081 872-7603
810-8019 871-8318
810-7183 810-7297
815-2144
Welcome Brokers & Agents
write to
fonterealty@skyinet.net

RIZAL

ESLA URBAN
TOWNHOUSES
Sto Domingo Cainta Near Junction 3Storey 126sqm 2BR w/ Attic 2T&B 2-Car Garage Ready 4 Occupancy EZ In-House Financing 671-5749 • 671-5758 • 671-5752
Call Monday to Friday

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Boracay Fairways Bluewater
3BR Share 6337601/03

FARM/FISHPEN

ESL FARM LOTS
Palsara Balete Batangas Subdivided 1000sqm/lot Blk Pepper Coffee Fruit Trees Buyers Can Avail Resort Facilities at Discounted Rate 671-5749 • 671-5758 • 671-5752 Mon-Fri
Scheduled Tripping

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

R/Off 98Roces10T 3722625

Studio Type
Unit 4 Rent 0917-3992866 Proj. 4 QC

PROVINCIAL

•BF PARANAQUE•
big semi-studio w/new T&B & kitchenette, quiet location, parking available, single female working pref. P6,500
CALL 842-6286

HOUSE

MAKATI

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

MUNTINLUPA

4BR w/TB w/s.pool 8074128 near Filinvest 35T

QUEZON CITY

#5 Road 29, Proj 6 P14T 0917-9570337

Loyola Xavier Ville 3BR
Call915-5177

RENT/ SALE Zuzuaregi St.Joseph Cmpnd C'wealth 3734559 / 3733469 Ofc Hrs

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

LPL MANOR Studio Type
Fully Furnished w/Parking
•Call Myrna 8931043•

Pasong Tamo nr Don Bosco New 1br1Pk P11T 2420922

Regency Salcedo Village FF
Penhse 125T• 915-5177

PASAY

Sunset View Roxas Blvd. nr Japan Emb/DFA P25T/mo 2BR2TB FF 2Tels Mds Rm •T-8928014,(0917)8437669•

PASIG

2BR Residencia Ortigas 3TB Tel Prkg 915-3075 M-F

QUEZON CITY

2BR W/ Parking Front Ateneo P20T/Mo. 633-7601/03

3Sty Bldg 4br3tb
2 Living Rm with Prkg landscaping alg Congresn'l Ave cor Mindanao Ave nr KFC McDo Cherry Foodarama Tess 09192803812;6375055

SAN JUAN

2BR Furn Annapolis Condo P18Th Up 635-6722 • 726-8288 M-F

Valencia Hills Pent Hse
2BR Parking Furn. 6337601/03

FOR LEASE

N. Domingo SJ 1600 sqm
w/House • 915-5177

BEDSPACE

LADIES BEDSPACE
D.Tuazon, St. Call. 712-0615
Cell Phone 0917-9323750

Wrkg Ladys Mand 5310561

BUSINESS RENTAL

125m^2 Buss. Space Resto /Ofc Raquel 0917-4149898

Cal. W-Hse w/Power 361-3296

Centerpoint 170m^2 @ 250
412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Com'l Space 4 Rent 157 Kamias Ext.9206694/9251348

Jollibee Plaza FFurn. 60-120m^2 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

Medical Plaza Sale or Rent
40m^2 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m^2 1st Class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

Orient SQ 150m^2 Fitted
412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Ortigas Ctr 150m^2 Fitted Imprvd
412-1825 • 0917-7914366

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

94 GRACE 200T 330-3315

94 GRACE 205 T330-3315

98 GRACE 260 T330-3315

KIA

96 Besta 220T 330-3315

98 Besta 260T 330-3315

98 Besta 260T 330-3315

98 Pregio 345T 330-3315

PREGIO '98 330T 4330568

MERCEDES

98 MB100D 390T 330-3315

MB100 '98 375T 4330223

MITSUBISHI

'95 Lancer GLi P200T 532-3936

NISSAN

Nissan Terrano Slightly Used 1st Ownr 915-3075 M-F

'99 Vanet 425T Call 631-3649

SUZUKI

'97 Esteem A1 Cond. Neg. Casa Maint. Lady Driven 642-7756

OTHER CAR BRANDS

H100 M - 96 Call Tel 726-4005 or 942-8679

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

GENUINE
BRAND NEW & JAPAN SURPLUS
FREE CHECK-UP! 8am-7pm
GUARANTEED SERVICE
RUBBERVOLT 3716783
115 Mind. Ave. QC 9291514

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex L300 Coaster Bus Cars 637-7396 • 631-3496

BNew L3 Pregio 825-4058

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 VV (Roger) 578-8917

MB L3 Hiace/Urvan 8257135

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o taking car 3670169

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Eng Welder P55T 3610215

Farm Tractor 55T 3672002

Genset100KVA210T 3672002

Truck Trailer Chassis 4sale: 40' flatbed 190T, 40'Combo 145T,strait 40' 125T 2874883

MARKETING & SALES

Must have the following qualifications:

- Male or Female
- 25 to 35 years old
- College Degree holder
- Must have experience in sales at management level
- Good communication skills

A fantastic opportunity for the right person!

Pls. contact: Amy at 8541852 for appointment.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HOME APPLIANCE

7Units Condura 3ton 2000ceiling mount P35T slim model packg type P35T 2hp carrier P9T 1.5 hp P7T 1hp P6500 5ton & 7.5 ton P60T 9219465 4262970 4554061

PETS

BOXER PUPS by Phgr & Auch 0917-6495100 / 044-6681590

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Golden Ret F 09192050952

Rott 2½mo. 0917-9243121

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARD Table & Supplies SM Fairview 3/F Storyland 0919-6108798

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard 22T, 355 complete Acc's 8618714/16 8613123 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

WE BUY ROLEX
5633742 5897041 09174383744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8390002
8390004

MISCELLANEOUS

TAKARA BARBERS CHAIR
920-6694/925-1348/49

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

NEED Honest Maid 912-4664

Nurse/M'wife Stay-In T5610681

MALE/FEMALE

20 Ofc staff 9134470 Ms Bea

Auto-Mech./Sec. w/exp Apply@65 Mindanao Av QC

CARE GIVER T5280722

Clerk-Collector 633-1838

Cook 6, Yaya 4, H'girl 2,5 Foreign Family 851-0250

Direct Hire Ofc Staff
9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe

GRAPHIC ARTIST 731-7216

OFC STAFF 4376847 JOYCE

•OFC STAFF 913-4470 KC•

Ofc Staff 9134470 Menchy

•Ofc Staff•9168033 Alyssa

•Urgent! 18 Ofc Personnel 18-45yo w/or w/o exp Direct Start ASAP! 9134470 HAZEL

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

• OFFICE STAFF •
In diff. position Coll. Grad./Level P8T-15T/month 854-8595 • 854-1166 Interview Aug. 15-18 Look for Ms. Ocampo

SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR. COL. 18-25 YRS. OLD APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BINONDO MLA. BRING RESUME W/PICTURES NBI BIRTH CERT. PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE BET 8:30 - 9:30 AM

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
TEACHERS
w/Pleasing Personality likes to work w/ People Call Jack/Chai 687-0730

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Part Time Income 10-20K 09174283599 8616859 PM

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar 3738821

Work From Home 8937903

EARN UNLIMITED INCOME
JEWELLERY
ON CONSIGNMENT
VERY EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS
CALL OUR HOT LINES: 8390004
8390060

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of late MARISSA G. GORROSPE was extrajudicially settled by an affidavit of self adjudication w/absolute sale as per Doc.1103 Page23 BookXCIV Series 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Avelino C. Gorrospe, San Fernando, Pampanga
[PDI-August 1,8&15,2001]

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAFAEL SOLCHAGA DADIVAS which estate consists of various parcels of land has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on August 5, 2001, by and among his heirs as eveidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Gina C. Garcia of Makati City, and entered in her Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 287, Page No. 56, Book III, Series of 2001.
(PDI-Aug. 15, 22 & 29, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Philam Bond Fund Stock Certificate No. 0064 for 18,833 shares under the name of Ma. Virginia B. Salcedo is missing. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-August 1, 8 & 15, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JASMIN ISIP with waiver of share executed on Aug. 6, 2001 acknowledged before Atty. Francisco Malate Notary Public in the city of Paranaque Doc.#289, Page #58, Book #6 Series of 2001
PDI-Aug 8, 15 & 22, 2001

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

ACCOUNTANTS

Our clients, all reputable domestic firms need experienced Accountants.

Those who are in their early 20's to mid 30's with above-average scholastic records, proficient in Word or Excel, will be the ideal candidates.

As the need to fill in the positions are urgent, interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials to:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
14th Floor JAKA 6780, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone No. 813-1058; Facsimile No. 819-0485
E-mail address: hr@manilaconsulting.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture, and Sports
Third Elementary Education Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: August 6, 2001
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. PISU-CO/232001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of Office Equipment to Selected Division and District Offices in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of office equipment.
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of office equipment to remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for Foreign Assisted Projects, Ground Floor Rizal Bldg. II, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Tel. No. (632) 636-6542 or 632-1361 local 2085 or Telefax No. (632) 636-6542.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting August 6, 2001 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.*
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 10:00 a.m. on **September 13, 2001** and must be accompanied by a security of two (2) percent of total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 a.m. on **September 13, 2001** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **August 23, 2001**, 10:00 a.m. at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Aug. 13, 15 & 17, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources of the PCs for Public High Schools Project (BAC-ITR for PCPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry is inviting interested Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or OEM distributors to qualify and bid for the supply, delivery and installation of computer package consisting of 20 PCSs, 2 printers, 1 external CD ROM drive, and 1 external modem for each of the 534 public high schools in Luzon and 235 public high schools in Mindanao. The Project is funded by the Government of Japan under the Non-Project Grant Assistance.

Bid documents may be obtained from the Office of Special Concerns c/o Dir. Dita Marallt / Lydia Guevarra, at the 5/F, DTI Building, #361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, during regular office hours (from 8:00 AM -- 5:00 PM) from **August 16** to **August 23, 2001**. Deadline for the submission of Qualification Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposal is on **August 28, 2001**, 5:00 PM.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **August 17, 2001**, Friday 10:00 AM at the 40-Seater Conference Room, 4/F, BOI Building, #385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

The BAC-ITR reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **TOBY MELISSA MONSOD**
Chair, BAC-ITR for PCPS

(PDI -- Aug. 14 & 15, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Head start

Q. Why is a baby normally born head first?

A. About two weeks before birth the unborn baby, which has always been an acrobat inside his or her mother's womb, makes one last somersault that lands the fetus head down in the womb with the top of its skull pressed against the exit. The baby lands head first for a simple reason: It is top-heavy -- the head was always its biggest part and gravity weighs it down. The baby will turn no more for just another simple reason: There's no space left for acrobatics.

For the Record. The birth control pill contains hormore-like substances that enter the bloodstream and disrupt the production of a woman's reproductive cells and inhibit ovulation. It originated in an unexpected discovery made in the tropical jungles of Mexico in the 1930s. There, American chemistry professor Russel Marker was experimenting with a group of plant steroids known as sapogenins, obtained from the Mexican wild yam *cabeza de negro,* which produce a soaplike foam in water. He discovered a chemical process that transformed the sapogenin *diosgenin* into the human female sex hormone progesterone.

At that time, progesterone was used to treat menstrual disorders and prevent miscarriages. But the drug was available only from European pharmaceutical companies, and methods of preparing it were laborious and costly. Marker rented a laboratory in Mexico City, collected ten tons of yams, and at his own expense isolated pure diosgenin. Back in the United States, he synthesized more than 2,000 grams of progesterone, which at the time was worth $160,000. The synthesis was far simpler than the traditional methods, and in time it would bring down the price of sex steroids from $80 to $1 per gram. Working on Marker's discovery for the next two decades, researchers finally produced Enovid, the first oral contraceptive, in 1960.

WORD WATCH

Abortion (uh bor shun) : from the Latin *aborirl,* 'be born badly.'

PDI – Aug. 15, 2001

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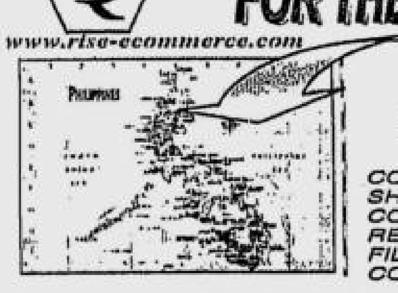

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All interested contractors with category PCAB D and above, and IAC Special Classification on Well Drilling or Water Supply are invited to participate in the bidding for the **EXPLORATORY/WELL DRILLING OF TWO (2) PRODUCTION WELLS,** using Rotary Method, here in Davao City.

The Appoved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of each well, and its location are as follows:

1) San Isidro, Bunawan — Php 2,433,816.83
2) Production Well # 37, back of Greenland Subd., Dumoy, Toril District — Php 3,154,941.52

Pre-C/eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **August 10 to 16, 2001** during its business hours.

Deadline for the submission of Pre-C documents : **August 20, 2001**
Issuance of Plans - **Sept. 06, 2001**
Pre-bid Conference - **Sept. 13, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.**
Bidding - **Sept. 20, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.**

The DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein, or to award the project to a bid that is considered most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) ENGR. WILFRED G. YAMSON
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-B

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The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme is an integrated rural development project of the Department of Agriculture jointly funded by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union.

Invitation to contractors to submit Letters of Interest Software Development

In the scope of its activities CASCADE is currently planning to resume the development of its internal Management Information System. The MIS will be designed to deliver computerized information for project monitoring and evaluation and to aid decision-making regarding the project's activities in a shared environment.

CASCADE implements five main components (Agricultural production systems, Micro enterprise development, Social development, Institutional development, Rural Finance) supported by four programs (Infrastructure, Credit and Micro Finance, SME (Group Development), Studies and Research).

Organizations/Consultants are invited to submit letters of interest including track record with references and availability for the contract entitled "Management Information System—Software Development." Letters of Interest should be submitted no later than 30 August 2001. Those who will be short listed will be provided full term of references to bid for over 12 months of consultancy services in 3 phases and to develop product specific support packages and training to the Central Project Office (CPO). The proposal should include background and experience and confirm the ability to provide capable intervention in the related field.

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

AMBROSIA PULIDO-LABRADOR

August 11, 1906 — August 8, 2001

wish to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who sent condolences and flowers, attended the funeral rites and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

"I am the way, the truth and the life..."
John 14:6

Atty. Razon Tumbocon-Haresco

Chairman, Tariff Commission (1968-1985)
Consultant, DSWD and Senate Committee on Economic Affairs
under H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (1992-2000)
Deputy Chief-of-Staff, former Senator Vicente T. Paterno (1987-1990)
Head, Senate Tax and Tariff Office (1990-1992)
Consultant, UNDP, ADB and World Bank (1973-1986)

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord
on the 11th day of August 2001 at the age of 83.

Wife to **Teodorico, Sr.** (†), and mother to her loving children **Primalee & Leen Paauw, Mauino "Mike"** and **Teodorico "Ted" Jr.** & his best friend **Slyvia**; siblings **Constancia** (†), **Patria, Augusto** (†), **Ciceron** (†), **Lolito, Soledad, Benny, Leonore, Carmelita, Lorna, Reynaldo, Mauro Jr., Rene** and **Clarina**; grandchildren **Paolo, J.T. & Gina, Patricia, Jocelo, Amara**; great grandson **Julian**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Premiere II, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Holy mass will be offered every 6:30 p.m. Necrological services will be held after the mass on Thursday, 16 August 2001.

Nanay Zoning's remains will be flown to Kalibo, Aklan on Friday, 17 August 2001, to be held in state at Casa Prima, Ibajay, Aklan.

Interment will be on Monday 20 August 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Special Mass at St. Peter the Apostle's Church, Ibajay, Aklan.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sto. Niño Seminary in Numancia, Aklan or the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City will be highly appreciated.

ERIBERTO "BERT" CANILLAS CALAPARDO, SR.

of Leon, Iloilo and Quezon City

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 7, 2001 at the age of 66.

His bereaved wife **Linaflor**; children and in-laws **Jolinbert** and **Aris, Erelin** and **Estes, Berlynne** and **Lorenzo, Jun-Jun** and **Liza**; his grandchildren **Christiaan, Nikko, Erin, Krysthel, Kathleen, Klariz, Sue Ellen** and **Clodette Jill**.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 19, 2001 after the 9:00 AM Mass at Himlayang Pilipino.

---

† RIP

SUZANNE JOY HONORIO KOUNTUR

of Marilao, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 13, 2001 at the age of 41.

Her husband **Ronny Kountur**; her children **Kristian** and **Kimberly**; her parents **Lucilo** and **Norma Honorio**; brothers, sisters and in-laws **Enrico, Cynthia** and **Omi, Teddy** and **Coy, Dorothy** and **Don**; nephews **Ramon, Jan, Jonathan, Bryle** and **Red**; other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 16, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:30 a.m. Requiem Mass at Nacional Memorial Homes.

ENGR. ADELAIDO R. ENCARNACION

Died August 8, 2001 at the age of 84.

His remains will be flown in from Australia on August 17, 2001 and will lie in state at Masonic Lodge #69 at Binakayan Kawit, Cavite.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 19, 2001 at Binakayan Cemetery.

GODOFREDO PENGSON LIGON, SR.

of San Miguel, Bulacan

Joined his Creator on 10 August 2001 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife **EVA**; children **VANGIE, PAMS, CRISTY** and **JUN**; sons-in-law, daughter-in-law and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 16, 2001, 11:00 am. at San Miguel, Bulacan.

EDGARDO "EGAY" L. AVILA, M.D.

President and Medical Surgeon of St. Rose Hospital

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace of our Lord on August 13, 2001 at the age of 43.

Loving husband to **Ruth** and the best father to his children **Ion, Izza** and **Althea**; wonderful son to **Dr. Rodolfo** and **Luviminda Avila**; eldest brother to **Noli, Let-Let, Bedict** and **Katy**; in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives, dear friends, doctors, nurses and staff mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His remains lie at St. Rose Hospital, Samput, Paniqui, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 18, 2001 after the 2:30 p.m. Mass at St. Rose Parish, Paniqui, Tarlac.

Card of Thanks
The family of

ENGR. VICENTE S. UMALI

(April 01, 1931 — August 01, 2001)

thanks all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, kept vigil and who in various ways expressed their sympathies over our loss. Your kindness has been a source of strength and much comfort. May the good Lord bless you.

Razon Tumbocon-Haresco passes away at 83

FORMER Tariff Commission Chairperson Razon Tumbocon-Haresco has passed away last August 11 at the age of 83.

A widow of the late Teodorico Haresco Sr., she once served as consultant to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo while the latter was still a senator, vice president and social welfare secretary.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Guadalupe Memorial Chapel from August 11 to 16 where Holy Mass and prayer vigils are expected to be held.

On August 17, her body will be flown to Ibajay, Aklan, her hometown, where it will be viewed at the Casa Prima. Interment will be held on August 20 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Peter The Apostle's Church, in Ibajay, Aklan.

She was the first chairperson of the Tariff Commission serving from 1968 to 1985 where the 48-year-old Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines has been drafted and promulgated.

A graduate with magna cum laude at the University of Sto. Tomas-College of Law in 1940, she was Deputy Chief-of-Staff to former Senator Vicente T. Paterno, 1988-90 and became the first Head of the Senate Tax and Tariff Office from 1990 to 1992. She served as a consultant to the UNDP, Asian Development Bank and World Bank from 1973 to 1986.

She is survived by her three children—Mrs. Primalee Paauw, Atty. Mauino "Mike" Haresco, a trade attaché of the Department of Trade and Industry, and Teodorico Haresco Jr., senior program adviser of the President's Bridge Program—Office of the President, and grandchildren Paolo, Patricia, J.T. and Gina, Jocelo and Amara.

Her grieving family and relatives request to pray for her eternal rest. In lieu of flowers, they are encouraging that donations be given instead to the Sto. Niño Seminary in Numancia, Aklan or the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City.

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Avoid common blunders in negotiations

By Ernie O. Cecilia

"YOU can't win them all" is a convenient excuse of careless and unskilled negotiators when they commit mistakes. Even skillful negotiators commit mistakes—some mistakes are light, but others can cripple the whole negotiation, their career or their business.

Can you avoid making crippling mistakes? Can you always be a winning negotiator? Yes. Just guard against these common mistakes that lead to the undoing of excellent negotiators:

1. Underestimating the other party

After a series of successful negotiations, you might take it easy and treat the other party as "one of your next victims." Never underestimate the ability of the other party. Study him and his negotiating style and constantly adjust until you take the upper hand. However, do not overestimate the other party. Respect his abilities but never be awed by them. Sun Tzu advocates, "Know yourself and your enemy."

Some of the most underrated negotiators are women, young persons, non-lawyers and the uneducated or untrained. These underdogs spring surprises and make the careless and overconfident negotiator pay dearly.

2. Never setting a goal

When you "just do it" without considering your objectives, you won't know whether you are succeeding or failing in your negotiations. Professional negotiators set their negotiating goals and constantly remind themselves about these goals and how far or near they are from it.

Goals will guide you in making the right moves. Lose sight of your objectives and you lose direction and motivation.

3. No preparation

In most cases, lack of preparation is born more out of over-confidence than of ignorance. Those who underestimate their opponents might feel that they are just wasting their time if they study the other party's proposals, positions and posture. There is absolutely no substitute for preparation. Charm will get you by for a few minutes, but you still need to dwell on the issues at hand. Your lack of preparation will show once you open your mouth.

Preparation also entails physical and mental conditioning in order for you to cope with the stress that goes with negotiating.

4. Overlooking the facts

Negotiation is an exchange of ideas, facts and figures where you base your negotiating position. You can not reason intelligently unless you know the facts. Disregarding the facts is foolhardy.

Whenever a new information is presented and you are not ready for it, sue for time to study and analyze it. Never disregard data nor totally accept them as facts right away, hook, line and sinker. Challenge the data, because the moment you accept a lie as fact, it becomes the truth.

5. Ignoring what the other party is saying

Listening is a necessary skill in negotiations. In fact, a brilliant counter statement is always a hallmark of a superior negotiator. How can you make a good retort if you do not listen to the other party? More often than not, the spoken word across the table gives you a clue on how best you can resolve the issues.

Sadly, many negotiators practice a lot what they will say. But the best negotiators practice their listening and discerning skills. In negotiations, it's not always "wysiwyg" (what you see is what you get). Listen and discern what is being communicated with words, inflection, intonation and body language.

6. Showing no mercy

Some insatiable negotiators don't know just when to stop. After meeting their negotiating objectives, they try to get more than what they need when they see a slight chink in the other party's defenses. They take until the other party "loses his shirt." This is a dangerous blunder—it makes you a marked person. Word gets around about your reputation and people will not want to deal with you. The losing party will surely think of ways to get back at you, when you least expect it.

7. Going for the "kill"

Wily negotiators are on the lookout for an opportunity to go for the jugular of the other party. When this happens, it becomes an all out war, a war of annihilation. The other party will not take it sitting down and I assure you that you're not going to have a ball all night long.

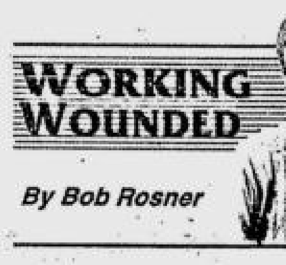
Be reasonable and never put one over the other. Maintain mutual respect and remember that after the negotiation, your paths will cross again.

Blunders in negotiations can be avoided. Always keep a positive attitude towards negotiation, learn the rudiments and practice until you master the art of negotiation.

(Send feedback to erniec@edsamail.com.ph*)*

ILLUSTRATION BYALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How do you support risk-taking within a company?


WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm frustrated. Our business is fighting for its life and I'm putting in outrageous hours, but I feel like my employees are doing the minimum just to get by. How can I encourage them to start thinking outside the box?

More Risk, More Reward

Everything I needed to know about risk I learned from a pot of ratatouille. Shortly out of college I got a job in a "cooperative" restaurant where even novices like me had to take a turn at the stove. For my debut as a chef I chose a simple meal—ratatouille. Unfortunately, when I tasted my first batch, I discovered I'd burned it. But I had a brilliant solution: mix the burned batch with an unburned batch. Wrong! Instead of losing one batch, I had to toss 'em both. I learned you can't cover up a burn; you only spread it.

It's no different when it comes to employees and risk at work. Anytime you come down hard on an employee who made a mistake, you send the message to everyone: take a risk and you'll get burned. To learn about how to turn up the heat on risk-taking without burning out the people who work for you, I turned to Jac Fitz-ens book, "The 8 Practices of Exceptional Companies" (Amacom, 1997). It offers concrete advice about how to make your company more productive and more humane. I've adapted the following from it.

How many levels of approval exist within your company? Having layers of approval for a new idea is the corporate equivalent of the electric chair. Seek to simplify the process—and the pain—your company subjects innovative employees to.

Are employees who take risks that DON'T pan out rewarded for their efforts? It's natural to salute an innovator whose idea was a smashing success. But when you also recognize those whose ideas fell short, you encourage risk-taking behavior. After all, an innovator's NEXT idea is a terrible thing to waste.

Are innovations that fail openly discussed? I don't mean beat up on the innovators. I mean initiate a process to learn why their ideas failed. Many failures are just a small tweaking away from being a success, but corporations often throw out the baby with the bath water by not conducting a comprehensive autopsy.

Is money available to fund new ideas? Willie Sutton robbed banks "because that's where the money is." Just like Willie, your employees will look past your exhortations to take risks to see if your company puts money behind new ideas.

Is innovation part of everyone's job description? Managers whose entire job is based on the status quo are poor judges of innovative ideas. Reduce this problem by giving everyone a risky assignment or two as part of his or her job.

After I threw out all that burned ratatouille, my boss didn't make my ears burn OR burn me in effigy. So I repaid his loyalty by burning the midnight oil.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which movie title best describes your employer's reaction to risk-taking?

—The Gambler, 20.5 percent

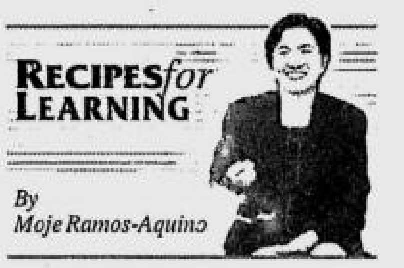
—The Terminator, 30.1 percent

—Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, 49.2 percent

Our winning strategy for increasing the risks taken at work is from Dennis D. in cyber-space. "Include on each employee's goals for the year a 'to be determined' project. Make each employee responsible for implementing a new process or procedure which significantly enhances the way their work is currently performed. Rather than waiting for an employee to come forward with a new idea, management empowers every employee to be an innovator."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Block time intruders


RECIPES for LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

WHY do you think telephones have the habit of ringing when you least expect it or when you are doing something very important? With the advent of the mobile phone, you cannot anymore escape intruders into your life, wherever and whenever you are.

Telephones can be your biggest time saver as well as a demanding time waster. When used appropriately, the telephone could be your ally in this fast-paced world. It could save you not only time but also money and effort. Instead of traveling a great distance, a simple telephone call could be your lifeline to your clients, suppliers, colleagues, family and friends. Can you imagine your life without the telephone? However, telephones could also disrupt your workflow and reduce your efficiency. Especially the unexpected calls.

Calling techniques

Here are some ways to handle telephone interruptions in our continuing Workshop on Using Time Effectively and Efficiently to Live Happily and Fulfill our Being.

1. As much as possible, make your own calls so that when the person you are calling answers the phone, you are immediately on line. If somebody else has to make or answer a call for you, make sure that they are properly trained. Teach them what and how to ask or answer, when and how calls can be referred and what questions they can answer on their own.

2. In this "e-age," electronic time-saving devices are available and easy to use. Use the memory feature of your telephone to dial frequently called numbers. Use the redial button on the telephone when dialing busy numbers.

'Callbacks'

3. Delegate "callbacks" when appropriate. For example, if you are in HRD and your friend called to inquire about your products, ask your Sales Department to call back your friend. The people in Sales would be more conversant with the features and prices of your products.

4. Make your calls when people are less likely to chat, such as right before lunch or before the end of the day. At that time, they are likely rushing to leave and are not prone to small talk.

5. At the very start of your telephone conversation, immediately refer to a list of items you'd like to discuss. Get right to the point and limit your call to a reasonable length of time. Have paper and pencil ready to take down notes. Don't 'hug' the telephone, yours and the other line. There might be people trying to reach you.

Answering aids

6. Use the voice mail or answering machine to screen your calls, especially when you are super busy or simply want a quiet hour. Or ask your secretary, or if you are at home, your capable housemates, to take messages for you. Make paper and pen available near the telephone.

When you are ready, playback the tape and determine which calls need a personal follow-up, can be delegated or need no answer. Business etiquette requires you to return calls within 72 hours from the time the call was made.

7. When talking on the phone, limit your social conversations. Stick to your agenda. Better yet, prepare a script or bullet points of important matters you want to discuss before picking up the phone. Provide short answers to questions.

Phone log

8. Use a phone log to record frequent calls and important points in your telephone conversation. This will give you an opportunity to track your calls and the subject matter of your calls. Likewise, ask those you frequently call what time is most convenient for them to receive your call. This way, they will be available when you call them. It is sometimes frustrating to make a call only to be told that the person you are calling is away or could not take your call for some important reason.

Likewise, tell them the time you want them to call you. And be sure to free up that time or use it for not so important or urgent tasks so that you are ready to receive phone calls.

Politeness

9. When all is said, end your calls promptly and politely. The person who called should hang up first. If that does not happen and you want to end the conversation, simply say, "Before we hang up, one last thing…" or "I have another meeting in two minutes, may I now summarize what we have talked about?" or "Thank you for this telephone call. Goodbye." Then, hang up.

By popular demand (*ahem!*), we'll do a repeat of our anniversary seminars. I shall be discussing the topic "Assertiveness in Communication" on August 28, Tuesday, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The venue this time is Makati Sports Club. Please refer to our print ads for details. I will be happy to see you there!

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

Is it too late . . .

(From page B16)

nating other non-value adding activities like socials and hanging around with the guys.

Regarding your flagging interest in your present course, there are techniques that you can use to help you sustain your interest in your current course. One technique is to find ways of rewarding yourself with something pleasurable if you are able do well a task related to your present course. I remember when I had to do a case in finance when I was pursuing my masters degree, I would reward myself with reading a science fiction short story immediately after. My brain is differently wired in the sense that it has extreme difficulty appreciating numbers. But the joy of reading something I enjoy kept my interest going.

In your case, why not study your lessons in your regular course first and then reward yourself with thirty minutes of playing your favorite instrument? I recall the song of Julie Andrews "a spoonful of sugar, makes the medicine go down."

Support group

Another technique is to create a support group. I am sure for your musical interest, you have a support group that allows you to jam together and try out your favorite pieces. Do the same thing with your current course. Get together with the best and the brightest in your class. Their strengths and energies can become contagious. They can also act as mentors and coaches. When I took graduate studies, my background was in journalism and literature. I would review cases with a lady whose line was in finance and another guy who was terrific in marketing. They counted on me to support them in the areas of behavioral science and human resources. To my own surprise, I passed the course with flying colors.

A third technique is to live every present moment well. This means living with full concentration on every task at hand. When confronted with an unpleasant task, do it as if your life completely depended on getting that unpleasant task done. For example, once a month, our family has the task of sanitizing all the rooms in our house. This is part of good housekeeping—scrubbing the ceiling and the walls and vacuuming all the screens and furniture. Since it involves manual work, we have to awaken our dormant and sluggish muscles. But we simply begin with one wall and one room at a time. And with nice, classical music playing, we end up truly enjoying what may appear as a difficult task. We then are able to reap the rewards of our work and enjoy nice smelling and clean rooms the rest of the month.

Imagination

The fourth is to draw a picture of your vision and make it come alive. Imagine how you would like your life to be five years from now. Make your description as vivid as possible. Put it on a wall in your bedroom so that everyday you can gain inspiration from it. Try to think of the milestones that will move you closer to your vision. Put as a milestone the completion of your present degree. Try to capture the feeling of fulfillment when you are able to pursue your musical interest fulltime.

Finally, stop being anxious, you are still young. There will be more visions in your lifetime that you will pursue and achieve. When you get older, you will look back and see the golden thread of your life that God has woven with you. Then, you will realize how exactly your first and second interests fit in the scheme of things. Take care and God bless you.

(Ms Puangco is president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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Moje Ramos Aquino
AUG. 28

Negotiating Your Way to Success (Effective Negotiating Techniques)
Ernie Cecilia
AUG. 29

Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times
Tita Datu Puangco
AUG. 30

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

'Is it too late to pursue my dream?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
For the Anxious Person at Work

I AM a college senior and have realized only recently what I really want to do in life. It doesn't have anything to do with my course, though. To achieve my dream, I have to learn new skills, which involve playing musical instruments.

I'm in a constant state of panic because, aside from the fact that I'm only going to learn at this late point in my life a skill that people start learning when they were kids, I have to give time to my studies, too. I feel that I have to perform a juggling act to do all those things and I worry that I might not reach my goals. Since I have only a year to go, I have decided to go on with my course.

How do I go about reaching my goals while doing the things I have to do? And how do I motivate myself to do what I don't feel like doing anymore?

Anxious Late Bloomer

Your present situation is indeed a challenging one. You are fortunate that you discovered what you want to do early in life. Some people find their vision when they are already working. Or discover their vision by accident because of particular situations they find themselves in.

I support your decision to complete your degree. This is an era where people take primary responsibility for their employability or for creating their own jobs. A person with more education and more skills has more flexibility in a dynamic, competitive and global world. If you have a degree, it gives you a clear edge over others even though you may not see an immediate use or value for it. It will provide you the flexibility in the future. It can become your fall back in terms of alternative career.

Vital fews

Definitely, your decision to pursue music at the same time as your regular course would demand more sophisticated time and stress management skills on your part. This means focusing on the 20 percent vital things that you really have to do that will give you 80 percent of the results. In business, this is called Pareto's Law. The "vital fews" for you may mean time spent studying and attending classes for both courses and elimi-

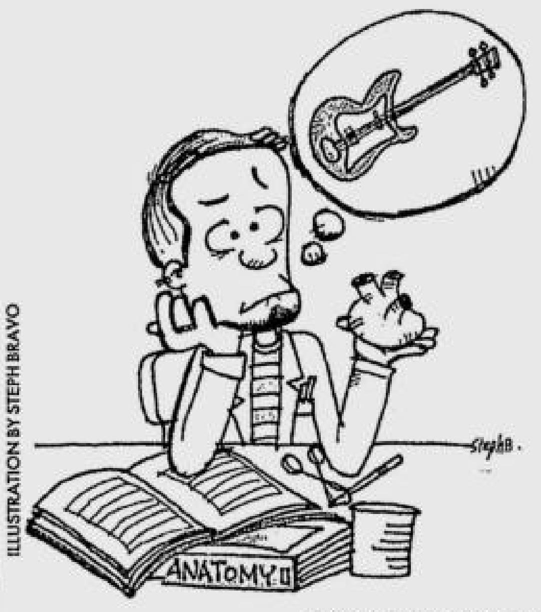

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

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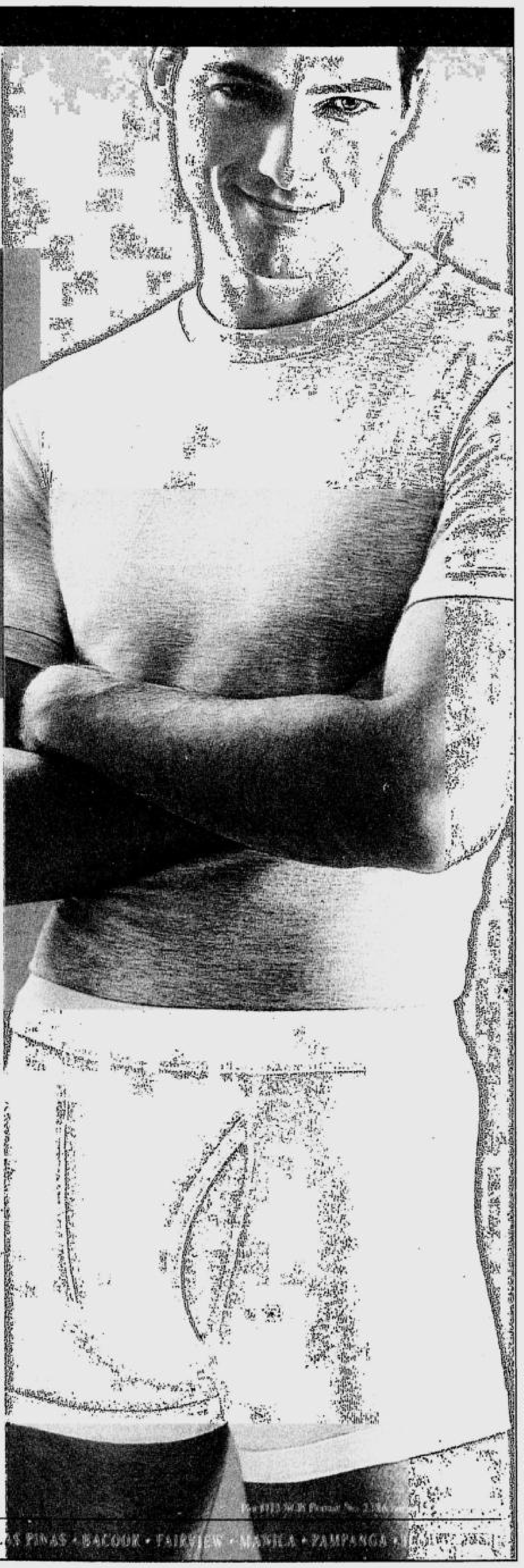

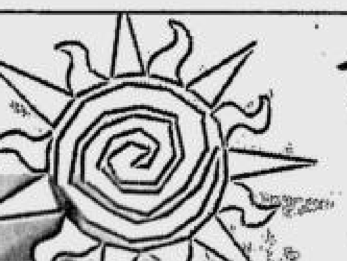

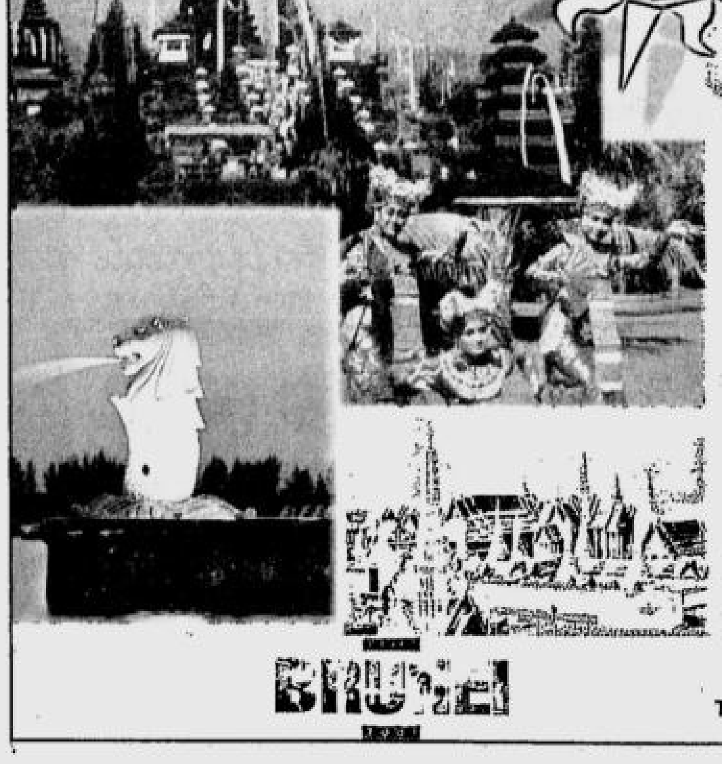

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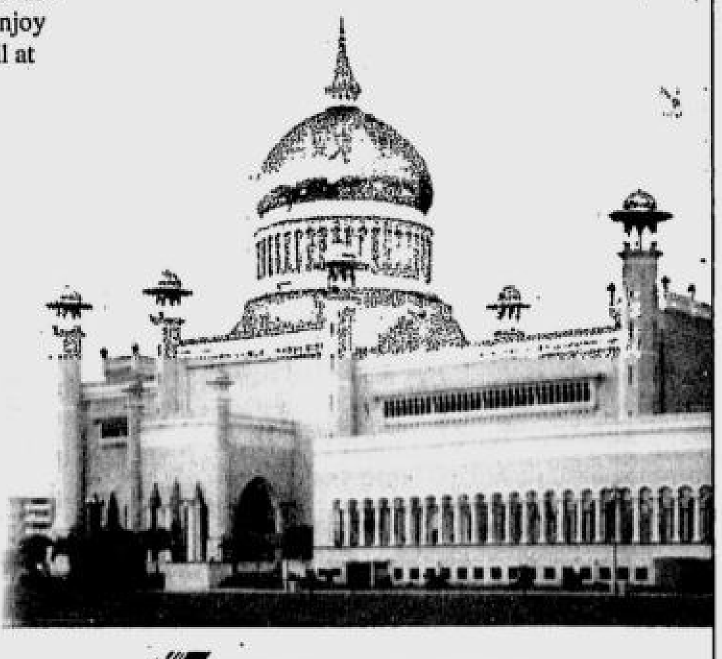

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LIFESTYLE
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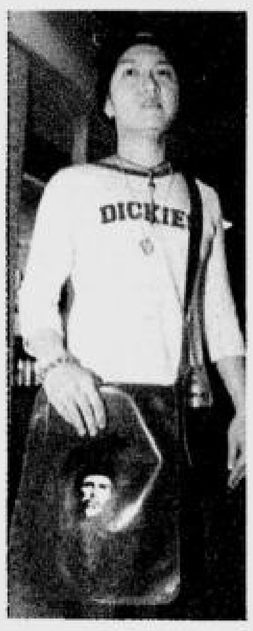

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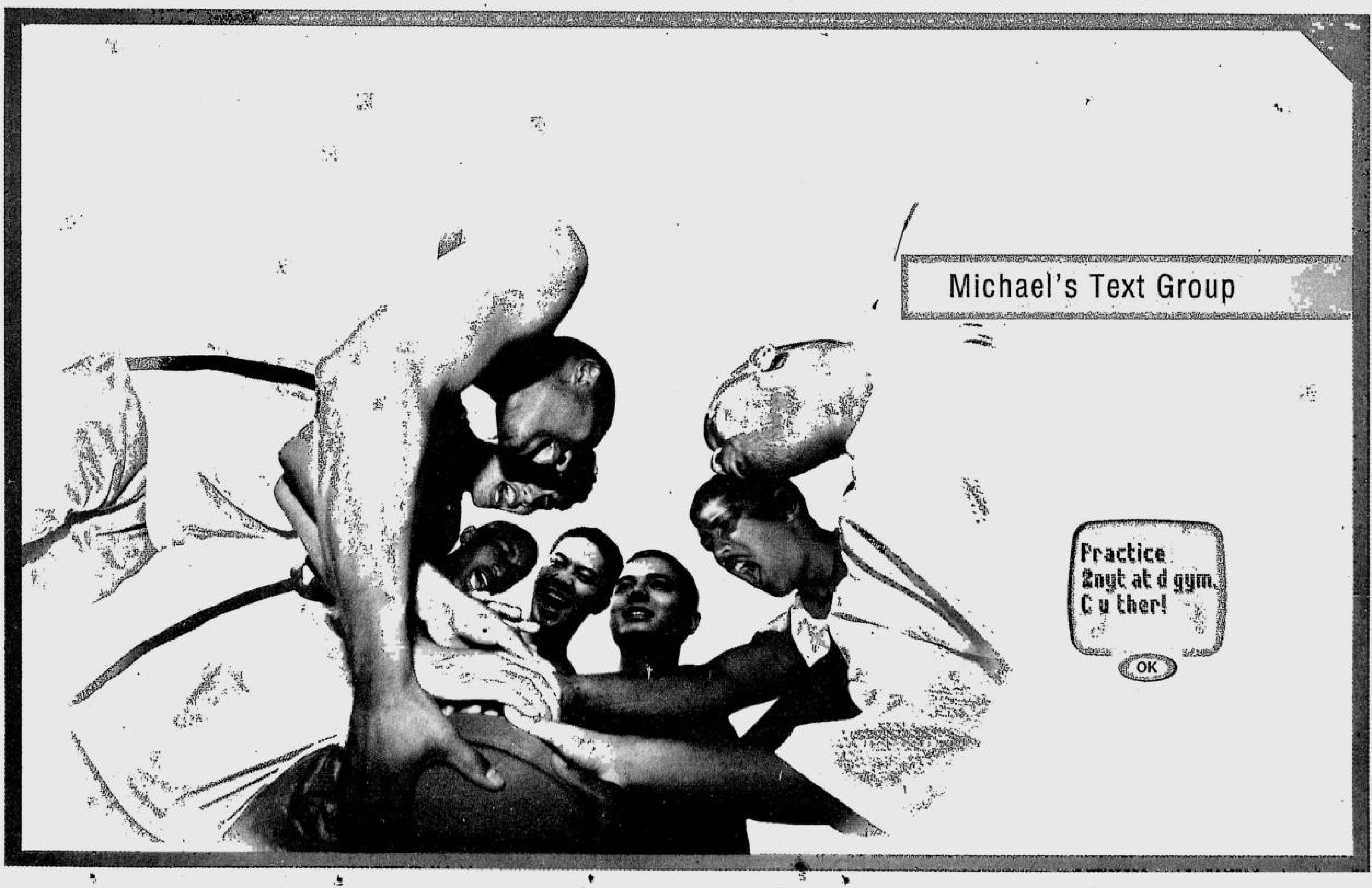
Michael's Text Group

Practice 2nyt at d gym. C u ther!

The other goods in the mall

"Prostitution sets a profound problem: Why is it that a practice so thoroughly disapproved, so widely outlawed...can yet flourish so universally?"
—Sociology professor Kingsley Davis

Freelancer Philip

BY EDWIN VALDEZ VINARAO
AND MICHAEL REMIR H. MACATANGAY
2bU! correspondents

STRIKINGLY neat and well-groomed, Philip, 21, is conspicuous as he roams around one of the famous (or "infamous"?) shopping malls in Cubao. He returns the stares of other men in a provocative way, giving away clues that he is in "business."

Unlike many of us who go to malls to buy or pick up something, he is there not as a buyer but as a seller. He is not picking up anything but is waiting to be picked up.

2bU! "reads" the clues and corners Philip, who does not hesitate to talk about his profession.

How long have you been in this business?

I've been doing this for almost three years now—on and off. *'Pag kailangan lang. Pang*-tuition, *pang-luho na rin* sometimes.

Where do you usually hang out?

I usually make *tambay* at three different malls—in Cubao, Recto and Monumento.

Why don't you stay in just one mall?

I'm a "freelancer." I do not belong to any of the factions in those malls. Being on my own is better. At least I'm not accountable to any group. And I have many options. But I do have a circle of friends... most of them are also "freelancers."

2bU! correspondents get male prostitutes to spill the tricks of the flesh trade

Is the flesh trade as rampant as before?

It used to be very rampant according to the "veterans." But there's no denying that it is still very much around. Times are difficult, you know. Our number has decreased, though, because some have moved to massage parlors. Those establishments sort of "legitimized" prostitution. Masseurs do "extra services" after giving their customers a body massage.

Are male prostitutes straight, gay or bisexual?

It's difficult to determine one's sexual preference. There are "callboys" who are real men. But some of us are straight-acting gays. Others are bisexual like me. We would sometimes have sex with each other. It's what we call the *sila-sila, tayo-tayo* thing.

You mean orgy among yourselves?

Yes, among close friends and colleagues in the "business." Tripping *lang. Minsan* type *din namin ang isa't-isa.*

Where do callboys usually stay in the mall?

Callboys can be found loitering near the railings and restrooms. In cinemas, they stand at the back of the lower section even if there are many vacant seats. We make *tambay* in those areas for several hours until a customer picks us up. Some of us would just roam the mall. As a freelancer, I do this.

Each group has its own territory or area that its members protect from "outsiders" or "invaders." Those staying near the railings, for instance, are called *bakal* boys. They have pimps (*bugaw*) who make referrals and negotiate for them. Most of the pimps are old gay men who hang out in nearby coffee shops, usually near the railings.

How do we recognize a callboy? What do they look like? How are they dressed? Would their action(s) give us a hint of who they are?

We're generally *maporma*. We're usually in casual clothes. Some of us wear what look like signature or branded clothes. Whether they're authentic or not, I don't know. Some of us wear body-hugging sleeveless shirts and tight jeans.

We usually maintain prolonged eye contact with prospective customers who stare back if they're interested. Even as we walk away from each other, we try to keep the eye contact.

To differentiate between the callboy and the customer, the first one to break the eye contact is usually the customer.

Shop owners and employees (near where we hang out) can already spot us because they see us very often. Familiar *na* to them *ang mga* faces *namin.*

What time do you usually start doing business?

Some of us arrive [in the mall] as early as 3 or 4 p.m. But most of us get there between 5-6 p.m. When the mall closes at 8 p.m. and still no customer, we transfer to either the movie theaters or the streets outside the mall.

What's the age range of callboys?

Generally, 15-30 years old. A few are younger while some are older. I'm 21 years old.

Do callboys work full-time or do you have other things that keep you busy?

Some work full-time. They don't have any other job or other things to do. Others are still in school, like me. I only do it when I desperately need cash, say, for tuition fees and household bills. Definitely, we do it for money to support our needs and wants. Earning money [this way] is fast and easy and can even be enjoyable sometimes! Hitting many birds with one stone, *ba*!

How do you negotiate and conduct business with customers? What are the usual "approaches" or pick-up lines?

It starts with a prolonged eye contact and a teasing smile. *Makikipagtitigan talaga kami sabay mapang-akit na ngiti.* Then the customer approaches us. Conversation starts with any of the following lines: "*May kasama ka ba*?," "*May hinihintay ka*?," "*Mag-isa ka lang yata*?," "*Tambay ka ba rito*?," "Call *ka ba*?" As for the "service fee," the customer would usually ask, "*Anong oras na*?" Some would respond with the actual price of the "service": "3 p.m." for P300, or *alas-singko* for P500. Others are more straightforward *gaya ko.* I give my price upfront, say, P400. *Wala nang paliguy-ligoy.* That's for "all the way"—*lahat ng gustong ipagawa ng* customer, *pwede*!

How long do negotiations last?

Usually more than 20 minutes.

What's the going rate?

It varies—from P400-P1,000—depending on the service. But it's negotiable. *Basta ako*, my "all the way" is P400. Some of us charge by the number of ejaculations... like for the first ejaculation, P300; second ejaculation, additional P300; for the third, additional P500 *na.*

Our market value is highly dependent on our age and looks (face and build). Age is inversely proportional to the price we charge—the younger the callboy, the higher he can charge.

How long does "it" last?

It depends on what we have agreed to do. The shortest could be half an hour.

How many customers can you accommodate in a day (or night)?

One to two customers per night are just enough. Three customers are quite rare. But it depends on our financial needs. Even four or five *kakayanin* as long as two or three of those *walang* ejaculation... only heavy petting or touching.

What types of people usually need your services?

Our customers are gay men. We have yet to get picked up by a woman. The gay men are diverse, *ha.* They belong to different social classes—from entrepreneurs to corporate professionals who can very well afford, to *parloristas.* A friend says he has a regular customer who is a policeman.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

How do you cope with potential dangers or occupational hazards (like sexually transmitted diseases, security/police arrests, etc.)? Aren't you afraid?

Our job is admittedly very risky. So we use condoms *lalo na 'pag* all the way. We are very conscious of our health since our bodies serve as our *puhunan.* We undergo medical checkup regularly. *Tsaka* vain din *kami... kelangan* neat, *maganda ang katawan at palaging mabango*!

As for security or police harassment, it is only a concern when we do it in public places like the mall comfort rooms, movie-houses, or in the car. But if we do it in a private place like a motel or house, which is often the case, *walang problema.*

Being a callboy is not a lifelong career. Do you see yourself doing the same thing five years from now? Where do you go from here?

This is only a stepping stone so I can finish my studies. I hope to go back to school and get my masscom degree. I am positive because I know a lot of former callboys who became full-fledged professionals—*may* registered nurse *na mag-a-*abroad *na, meron ding* working *na* as government employees. So I can still see a bright future.

Kanya-kanyang fate *din kasi 'yan. 'Yung iba* are already rich because *nag-hosto* sa Japan. Others *naman* were quite unfortunate *dahil* their lives became worse. Some allegedly resorted to criminal activities; when they retired, they became holduppers, drug pushers, *at kung anu-ano pang* illegal activities. I really believe it's a matter of discipline and attitude. If you want your life to be better, it all depends on you. *Pero ako, hindi ako tatanda nang nagbebenta ng sarili!*

After getting what we wanted from him, we let Philip go. He took it in stride saying that's how customers treat him anyway. What set us apart was we wished him luck and we promised to continue doing so.

On-call Paul

BY CELESTE GOMEZ
2bU! Correspondent,
Ateneo De Manila University

SOME 50 years ago, the place for shopping was Escolta in Manila and the sidestreets adjacent to it. Shopping could be tiring as one had to weave in and out of those streets to get everything they wanted.

The advent of the malls simplified things. Practically everything could be found under one roof—from merchandise to services. Some malls have even acquired a reputation for offering sexual services as well, although they don't advertise such.

Despite efforts to eliminate it, prostitution flourishes in the Philippines and has even established itself in a new territory—the malls. Reports of interesting goings-on inside the comfort rooms in the top floors of some well-known malls are increasing.

Prostitution, as a profession, involves a special kind of culture with its own gestures, language and a network or a structure that lets practitioners operate discreetly in a public area without being too obvious.

Paul (not the real name for obvious reasons), is a 28-year-old call boy who has been in the business for more than 10 years. Based at a Quezon City mall, he seems to be the perfect person to reveal the secrets of mall prostitution.

What are the malls for prostitution? Where does it happen?

There are certain malls where one can find people who offer "certain" kinds of services. Of course, it is an underground business.

I'm not sure, but I think Asiaweek and a tourism publication in the United States said the mall is popular for casual sex services.

Usually, the pickup part starts at the mall and ends up either in a cheap motel or a secluded place nearby. Gay bars and massage parlors are for professional prostitutes while malls are for those looking for casual sex and not necessarily for money.

What are the usual "business" hours?

(Business) usually starts late afternoon. I know because I have been working here for more than 10 years. After the mall closes at 8 p.m., "unsold items" would hang out in front of McDonalds to wait for customers.

How do you tell the difference between an ordinary shopper and a prostitute?

The callboys have a certain look—tight-fitting shirts usually worn with boots. They would have mobile phones and beepers (sometimes not activated). The accessories raise their market value. A guy looking for business may look like a celebrity with all his *porma.* There is also the student look. A girl wearing a school uniform sits all alone near the escalators of the mall. She may look like a real student, but might actually be a mother already. *Basta 'pag malikot ang mata, tingin nang tingin sa relo,* emote *nang* emote, *'yun na 'yon.* Sometimes, they use a pickup line like "*May hinihintay ka ba?*" to get a prospective customers' attention.

What makes people go into this kind of business?

For the professionals, it is a nice-paying job. For the students, it is the allure of making money so easily and quickly. You hear them say, "*Ay, ganun pala ang pera...*" Some adolescents, I guess, need an outlet for their sexual urges, so *papatol sila sa bakla.* Others do it for the free food and money; others for experience.

What is the price range? Is P800–P1000 cheap?

No, that is quite expensive already. Some would just settle for food and company. But usually it ranges from P300 to P1000.

Is there any competition among prostitutes working in just one mall?

Kind of, but I don't like to compete with them. The callboys here are regulars. Even if I don't know them, we're connected in spirit. To the *resbak kapag may problema.*

What are your plans?

I want to look for a sincere relationship eventually. Not just one-night stands. More than *kama.* I want to have children, of course. I don't want to grow old and still be in this business. *'Pag matanda ka na, nakakahiya nang manghada.*

(Special thanks to Mr. Ballano and his students at the Ateneo de Manila University for this excerpted interview.)

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More adventures of Angel Ace

NOW available from Alamat Comics is "Angel Ace: Again" No. 3.

When Filipino reporter Mike Rodriguez meets the beautiful circus aerialist Angel Ace, he immediately falls in love. But they fall into the death trap of the evil Sorcerer, who is out to destroy Angel's circus. If that isn't enough, Angel now has to deal with deadly Linda and the return of her arch enemy Kai.

The issue also includes "The Theory of Flight," a story by Jon Mallari, which reveals some clues on the secret origin of Angel's power.

"Angel Ace: Again" No. 3 is by Marco Dimaano. It is available at Comic Quest.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Missing UP

HI!

I've just read today's 2bU! and guess what—I'm getting nostalgic and everything. *Nakakamiss ang* UP.

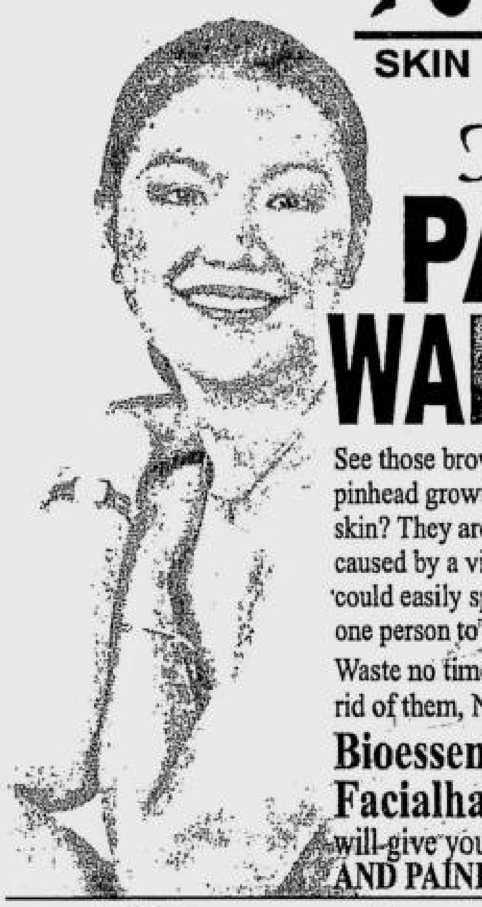
Your articles made me remember the good and bad ole college days. Makes me realize that I've come a long way, finally out of UP and now working in a prestigious company in Makati. *Dati rati Iskolar ng Bayan, naka*-jeans *lang* with matching sandals... *minsan nga naka-pambahay and tsinelas lang*. But look at me now! I'm an "Ayala girl" wearing business suits and even makeup sometimes. The signs of the times...

It's good though that in the middle of a busy day at work, I got to remember my UP life.

BTW, *madaming taga* UP *dito*—you won't notice them right away, unless they proudly proclaim they're from UP, because they have undergone a total make over.

Thanks.

JEANNE



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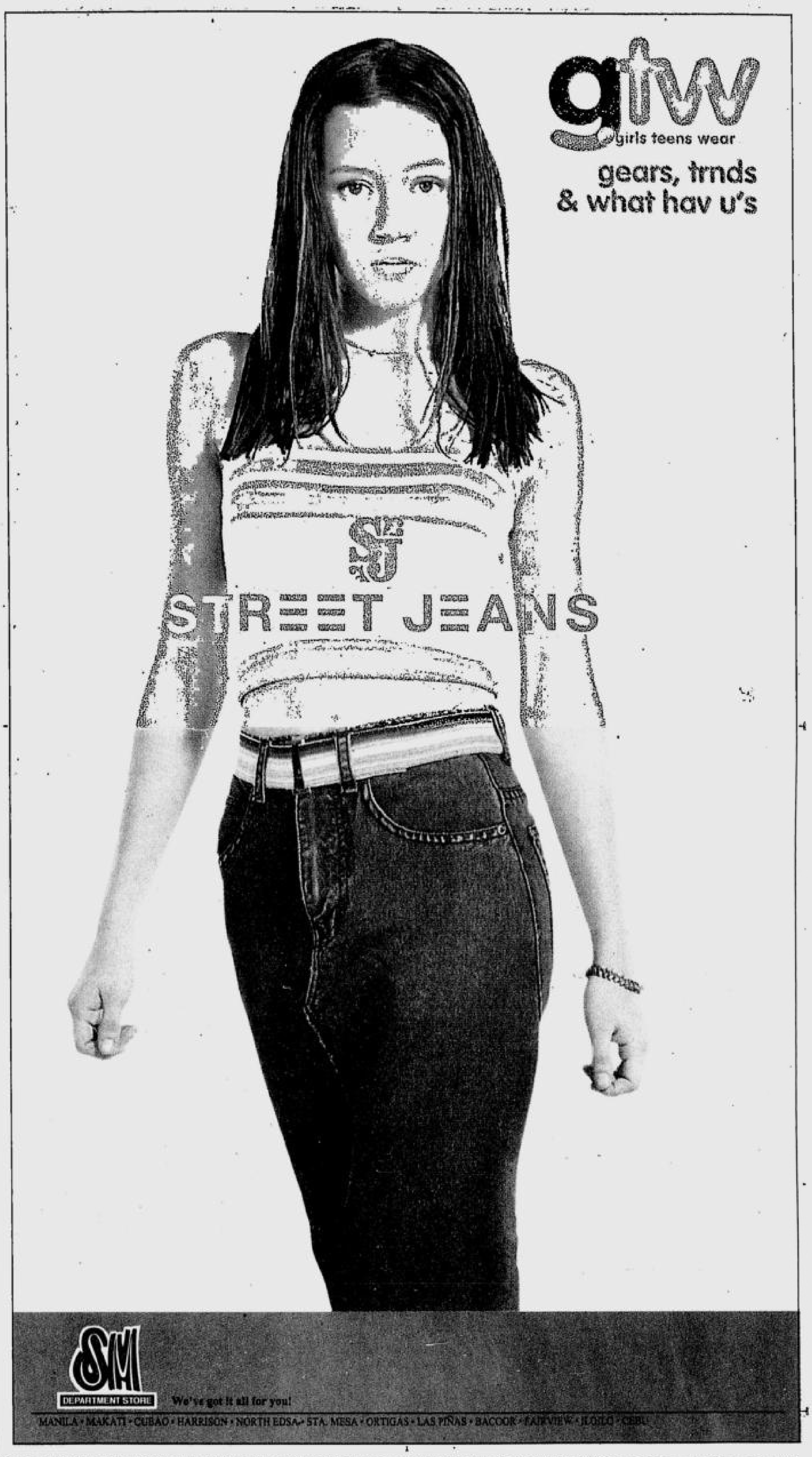
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Shopping's not the only experience you get at the mall

BY **RONALD LESTER LEYVA**
2bU! Correspondent,
DLSU-Dasmariñas

FULFILLMENT. Anger. Exasperation. Excitement. These are feelings people associate with the four-letter word that has become so much a part of the modern lifestyle—the mall. Indeed, the shopping complex is becoming more celebrated than the church and more attended than the classroom.

Malls are getting to be as ubiquitous as *sari-sari* stores, always beckoning you to visit and, of course, to part with some of your cash.

Embarrassment is not an unusual experience in the mall—from security gadgets sounding the alarm at the wrong time to a saleslady offering an extra free size, we have been through it all.

Bar-code attack

A twentysomething and her friends went into a specialty shop to try the cologne line that was being endorsed by a "cool dude." As they stepped out of the shop, the metal bar-code detector suddenly sounded, a signal that an item was being taken out without being paid. Some shoppers (or probably shoplifters) stopped to stare at her, making this new graduate shrink in shame. The whole group was startled not knowing what set off the alarm.

The guard inspected their bags. The twentysomething thought it was the VHS tape she rented. After the inspection, it was found that the book she got from the university library caused the 15 seconds of excitement.

Extra free size

My classmate, who is blessed with a bosom to envy, loves to shop for lingerie. She usually has a hard time looking for something that would fit because some shops do not offer brassiere for big women.

One time she went to a nearby mall to check out the latest designs but, as expected, nothing fit. Then the sales clerk in one shop offered her a "free size," which meant it was supposed to fit everybody (that's the general idea anyway). After almost suffocating from trying to fit into this universal garment, she decided to end her quest. She was literally running out of the shop when the clerk stopped her to offer "an extra free size" alternative.

Phoning dissatisfaction

I had to look for a P200 rare book because a professor wanted us to memorize terms, dates and names in each chapter. I came up with the clever idea of calling branches of the leading bookstore from Laguna to Quezon City to ask for that book.

The person on the other end of every branch I called were not likely to win goodwill for the store much less sell books. Some hang up without even finding out if there was a caller. Others made me wait for more than 10 minutes and then told me the book was out of stock.

I ended up getting the book at the university bookstore after using up two prepaid cards and spending a lot on operator-assisted calls.

Mistaken identity

A young lady going around the mall noticed a man staring at her. He followed her as she went in and out of shops. At first she thought it was just coincidence so she ignored him.

Finally the man approached her. He complained that she had become snobbish, giving the impression they knew each other. The girl started to worry when he continued talking casually. She had not seen that man before. Without a by-your-leave, she rushed toward the opposite direction, leaving him rooted to the spot.

Sales talk

I want to pay tribute to a man whose PR ability was so convincing I spent some P1,000 in the shop. (My mother doesn't know this!)

The tall man approached while I was trying on their lotions and perfume. He was very helpful, giving advice on the products I supposedly needed. Although I did not take up his suggestion to buy a P500 cream to get rid of the circles under my eyes, I did buy shower and bath things.

Celebrity chase game

Five girls were about to go into the restroom in a fine shopping place one day when one girl saw a tall young man wearing shades. The girl excitedly told her friends that she just saw one-third of the noontime troika—Joey?—er—Dominic Ochoa!

It took a while before she was able to convince her friends she was not imagining things. But by the time they all rushed outside to take a look, Dominic was gone.

With reports from Anne Luisa Villarico

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More mall mishaps

2bU! readers spill their most embarrassing mall experiences

THE MALL is the place for relaxation, right? Nope. Not when fate plays tricks on you and you have to endure endless embarrassments. Here are a few stories:

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

"One time, I was distracted and I walked out of Music One carrying a bunch of CDs in my arms. Good thing I know the people there."—**Coldplayer, 18**

"I was walking out of the movie theater in Megamall. The floor was slippery and I slipped. It wasn't that bad, but the girl behind the ticket booth screamed. Everyone turned to look at me."—**Rommel Silvana, 20**

"One time, I was in SM, I saw this woman wearing a dark dress. I thought she was a pregnant saleslady. I asked her about something. When she turned around, I saw a huge crucifix. She was a nun *pala*."—**Immaculee, 21**

"I was trying on clothes in one of my favorite shops. Their dressing room doesn't have a door, only a curtain covering it. Right in the middle of my preening session, someone yanked the curtain open, exposing half-naked me. I wanted to die."—**Punk, 19**

"My cousin and I decided to try the Urban Decay hair color sampler at Beauty Bar. I accidentally spilled purple color on her khakis. We rushed to the CR. Needless to say, she was furious."—**Margee, 19**

"My friends and I were eating in a Japanese restaurant in Glorietta. Weng Weng was done eating when we noticed a fly buzzing around our table. It landed on her teriyaki sauce and it died there. She called the manager and complained. She got to take free food home."—**Jane, 20**

"I thought I saw my friend from college. She had her back turned to me. I ran over and tugged her ponytail, screaming, 'Hoy!' She faced me, surprised. It was an old woman *pala*. I couldn't stop apologizing."—**Trish, 21**

"I love going around while listening to my Discman. People were giving me dirty looks. I had no idea I was singing out loud. I was giving the shoppers a free concert!"—**Lolita, 16**

"I asked my Mom to pick me up at the mall. At closing time I had nothing to do so I decided to wait outside. I was about to text her to ask her where she was so I put down my shopping bags near the waiting area for cabs. Suddenly, Mom called to tell me she was at the other entrance. I hurriedly grabbed my bags up and ran. People started to call after me. I had grabbed another woman's shopping bag."—**Kirstie, 17**

"Feeling sad, I went on a major shopping spree. I was carrying so many bags and one of the bigger ones broke. All the clothes I bought spilled on the floor. I ended up kneeling in the middle of the mall, picking up my stuff while people kept bumping past me."—**Kara, 19**

"I decided to go monochromatic one day. I went to the mall wearing an all-black outfit. The salespeople in one of the stores I visited were wearing all black outfits, too. *Ayun. Ilang beses akong napagkamalang tindera.* Customers were asking me about stocks. Duh."—**Abuse, 18**

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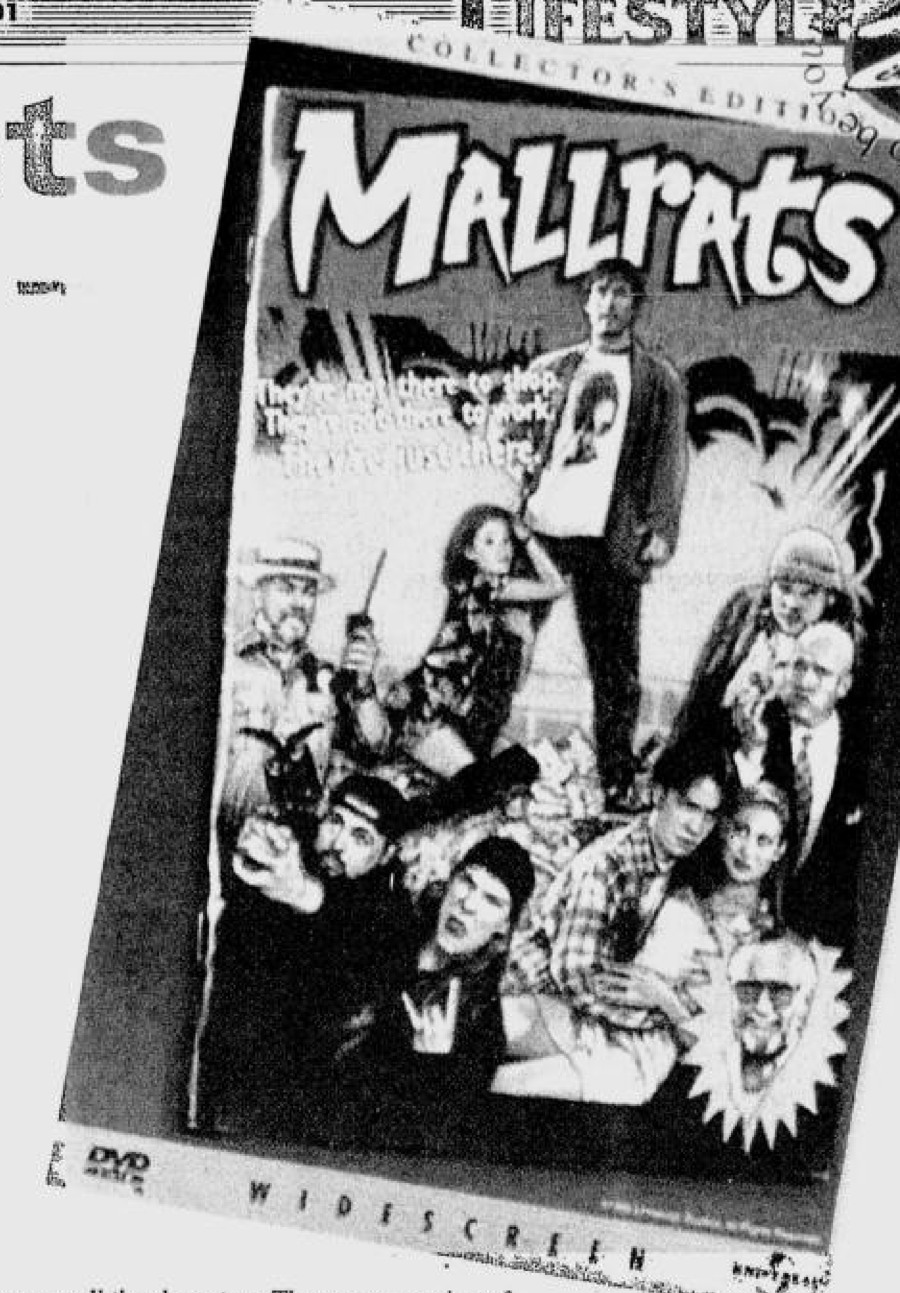
Mallrats

THE QUINTESSENTIAL mall movie, "Mallrats" has, and for ever will have, the adulation of teenagers (and those who watched it as teenagers) everywhere.


COLLECTOR'S EDITION
Mallrats
They're not there to shop. They're not there to work. They're just there.
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"Mallrats" is the second installment in cult-writer/director Kevin Smith's "New Jersey Trilogy." Though it may not be as transcendent as "Clerks," or as witty and thought-provoking as "Chasing Amy," the film still has its merits. "Why," one might ask, "it's such a stupid movie?" I couldn't agree more. The thing is, that is precisely what the movie was intended to be. There are no hidden meanings or insights to life in "Mallrats," no profound revelations or character studies. That's not what the movie tries to do. All it tries to do is make you laugh, and it does so quite successfully.

The cast is comprised of Smith's "usual suspects," Jason Lee, Jay and Silentbob (Jason Mewes and Kevin Smith himself), Joey Lauren Adams and Brian O'Halloran (the clerk in "Clerks"), along with new comers to Smith's "View Askewniverse," Shannen Doherty, Jeremy London and Claire Forlani. The story revolves around two slackers, (TS and Brodie, played by London and the brilliant Lee) who wander aimlessly through the mall after having been dumped by their girlfriends (Forlani and Doherty), and try and win back their favor. During their escapades, you are introduced to a host of odd characters, from a guy who spends the day trying to see the one of those 3D images to a misfit duo, to an obsessively overprotective dad, to a teenage girl doing the most unusual project you'll ever hear of, to the incomparable Stan Lee himself. But the plot is as much about its setting—the mall—as it is about its two main characters. Since the 20th century, the shopping mall has come to symbolize more than just a place you go to get something done; it has turned into a haven for the young and the restless. Smith captures this culture with acute detail. There's something about the way Smith writes, it's so neurotically believable and true, that you just can't help but laugh. Lee's unyielding paranoia, repeated throughout the film, is prime example:

"Brodie: Listen, not a year goes by, not a year, that I don't hear about some escalator accident involving some bastard kid which could have easily been avoided had some parent—I don't care which one—but some parent conditioned him to fear and respect that escalator!"

Neurotically funny dialogue such as this is found throughout the film, and distributed well among all the characters. There are a number of priceless gags in the story, the "sweaty palm" being a fine example, that you'll be telling friends about long after you've watched the film.

Therein lies the value of "Mallrats." It's funny. Plain and simple. It is not pretentious; it doesn't try to overachieve. It is what it is, a ridiculous and hilarious movie that has withstood the test of time and remains a landmark teen comedy in the '90s. If you're in search for a dose of originality in the face of cheesy teen comedies, rent "Mallrats."

Enter the world of Kevin Smith

Before Bartleby and Loki messed around in "Dogma" and before Holden fell in love with Alyssa Jones in "Chasing Amy," there was Brodie, TS and, of course, Jay and Silentbob in "Mallrats."

If anybody wants to take a crash course in "Understanding Kevin Smith," watch "Clerks" but I doubt if there's a copy somewhere so "Mallrats" is the movie to see. It was shown on cable a couple of years ago but it's now out on video shops.

Smith (or Silentbob in his movies) is the man behind "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma." "Mallrats," the second installment was bashed by lots of people but loved by lots of kids who enjoy slapstick and toilet humor (like me).

This is one of my favorite movies but I won't really recommend it. Smith lost his edge here because this is a studio movie so there is less cursing (about one profanity per minute), a bit of nudity and sensuality, none of which is reason enough for me to love Kevin any less.

Tammy David

E-mail the author at bluntman_silentbob@yahoo.com

Fantasy kingdom

By Milan Rustia
2bU! Correspondent

MALLS enchant me no end like Scottish castles and fairy tales. A mall has the power to put anyone who sets foot in its inviting interiors under an assiduous spell. Once inside, a mall lures one to willingly spend hard-earned money and effortlessly gives one an insatiable impulse to return. Perhaps, it's the air-conditioning that has this effect on mallgoers. A mall's appeal reminds me of Sleeping Beauty's tale where the king, the queen and a throng of servants are put to sleep by an evil witch for a hundred years or so. Similarly, mall habitués are turned into individuals void of the skill that enables them to distinguish a want from a need.

It may be presumptuous to note but for me, malls are the modern-day equivalent of Prince Charming. The prince that bears such a generic name was God's gift to womankind, while malls at this day and age are sanctuaries in the midst of urban chaos.

Right after you've had your bag inspected at the entrance, it's as if you're being transported to another place and time where everything is so downright orderly—a far cry from what it really is outside. The mall is a place where it's all right to become self-indulgent. It will make you doubt if you're still in the Philippines, a country synonymous to everything Third World. It will make you wonder if it's the same crises-stricken country undergoing an economic slump.

However, it is not sorcery that draws people to malls and entraps them into moats of unrestrained shopping and people-watching. Human beings have this partiality over anything ideal, especially if it's accessible. That's why going to malls has become a habit common to the young and old and broke.

Good life

A mall represents a place that allows for luxuries fit for a princess. It's a premature manifestation of what it's like to live happily ever after. Malls serve not only as a refuge for shoppers but a park for those who want to chill out and a venue for other forms of recreation as well. The soothing temperature and the ambiance help create an illusion of a "good life." Today's malls are tempting domains replete with different items and full of happy people spared of the hazards and hardships of everyday life. It can readily cater to any material compulsion from jewelry, clothing, beauty bars to items as obscure as a drapery tassle or a frying pan. Like a palace in the Medieval ages resplendent in its extravagance, a mall is a place so easy to love.

But before you can get the hang of Prince Charming's sweet kisses, something painful will hit you in the gut the moment you step out of its portals. You'll be zapped back to a not-so-magical world. Suddenly, you'll become a helpless mortal. You'll be confronted with the worries that plague commoners who live in the real world: heavy traffic, humid weather, an annoying credit card limit notice and a penniless pocket.

Often, you'll get a curse in exchange for the few hours spent living a fairy tale. The dose of pleasure will be so addictive that unlike in most stories, there will be no moral lesson learned. Charmed, people like me will keep on frequenting malls and there will be no antidote strong enough to snap me out of this dry and dizzying spell.

E-mail the author at milan98r@lycos.com

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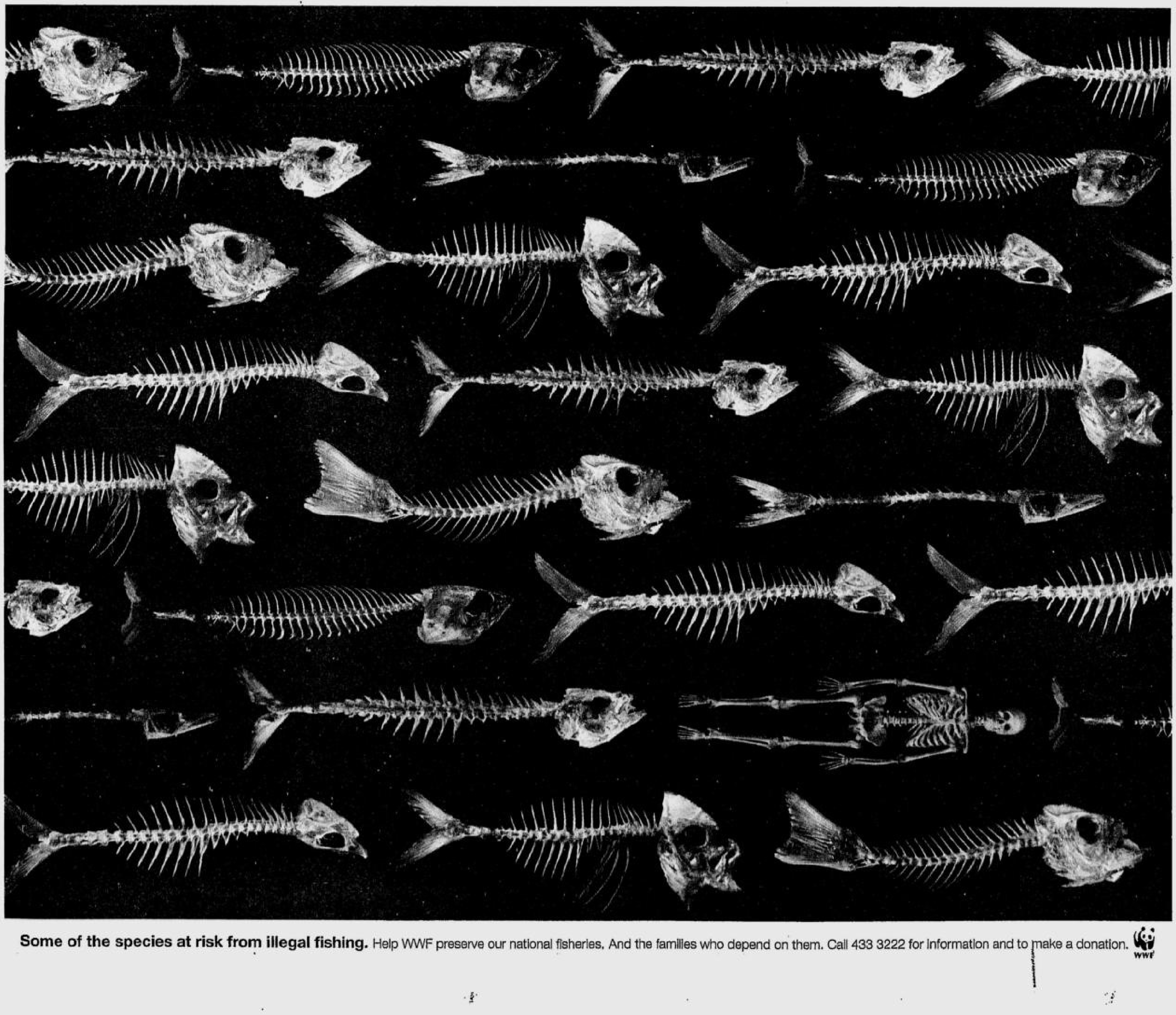

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Weekend treat at Enchanted Kingdom

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Darny Eraes, a resident of Hong Kong since birth, got the biggest and grandest homecoming when he was chosen Enchanted Kingdom's Lucky Visitor of the Week. It was his first time to visit the country's only world-class theme park.

It took a while before Enchanted Kingdom's welcoming committee composed of Linus Lopez, The Wizard and Queen Victoria and the rest of the park's cast could convince the amazed Darny. To prove it, Linus presented Darny with heaps of prizes from Enchanted Kingdom's souvenir shops and the theme park's valued sponsors.

The priceless treat, of course, was The Wizard's symbolic golden key to The Kingdom where Darny and four of his companions got to enjoy the park's various rides without queuing, a personal security escort, posterity shots for a complimentary photo from Bleeker Street Photography, and a sumptuous complimentary dinner at Amazon Grill.

Darny went to the park with his mom Azon, younger brother JR and his mom's wedding *ninang* Celia Dimeandas, a school principal from nearby Malvar, Batangas, her teacher-daughters Jinky and Jycel, her perky but very delightful granddaughter Kelsey Pauhlene Demit, mom Eusebia Lajato Coro and young schoolteacher Walter Contado. They were given the same perks and amenities extended to lucky Darny.

Previous winners of the month-old promo included technical support engineer Cesar Angelo Chavez III, pulmonologist Dr. Madel Sadili, and Carlito Flores, a Filipino in the US Army.

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Johnson's
PURE ESSENTIALS™
Teen CHEER Competition
Now on its 5th year!

SIGN UP AND STAND OUT!
This could be your year!

GENERAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES
1. Competition is open to all public and private high schools from the National Capital Region (NCR), Davao, Cebu and Iloilo.
2. There will be three division elimination rounds to be held in NCR with schedules as follows:
- Division I (Quezon City) September 08
- Division II (Manila, Pasay) September 22
- Division III (Makati, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Pateros, Taguig, Las Piñas, Parañaque) September 29
- Division IV (Malabon, Caloocan, Navotas, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Marikina, Rizal) September 30
3. The Grand Finals will be on November 24, 2001 to be held at the PhilSports Arena (formerly ULTRA).
4. Separate competitions will be held in the provinces. Schedules are as follows:
- Cebu September 15
- Davao October 06
- Iloilo October 13
5. Main awards to be given away are:

Grand Finals			Elimination Rounds		
Champion	Php	50,000 cash plus trophy	1st Place	Php	20,000 cash plus trophy
1st Runner-Up		35,000 cash plus trophy	2nd Place		15,000 cash plus trophy
2nd Runner-Up		20,000 cash plus trophy	3rd Place		10,000 cash plus trophy

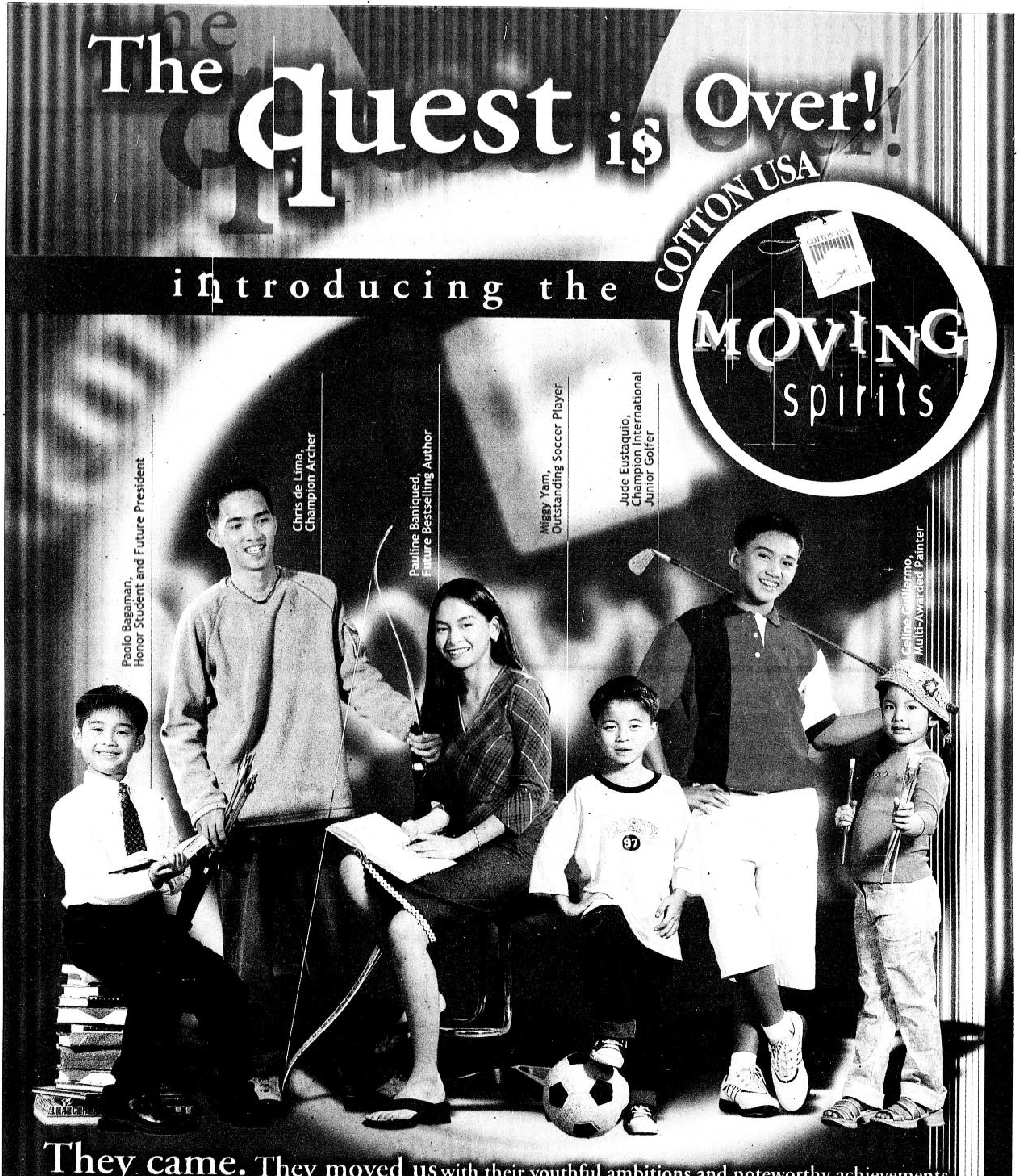
The first, second and third place winners of each elimination rounds in NCR will compete in the Grand Finals.
6. Special Awards to be given away during each division elimination rounds in NCR:
- Best Public School Award Php 10,000 cash plus trophy
  This award will be given to the public school with the highest total score among participating public schools within each division.
- Best Private School Award Php 10,000 cash plus trophy
  This award will be given to the private school with the highest total score among participating private schools within each division.
  The Best Public and Private School Awardee will each be given a chance to perform a special exhibition number during the Grand Finals. However, if the awardee belongs to the top three of its division, the school will no longer perform an exhibition number during the Grand Finals.
- Popular School Award Php 10,000 cash plus trophy
  This award will be given to the school that will be able to gather the highest number of Johnson's Pure Essentials Soft Skin Body Powder or Cologne packages within the set period in each division.
7. All entries must be forwarded to:

EVENTS CIRCUIT
c/o Mr. Rod Vejerano
Unit IC Cypress Gardens, 112 Herrera St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Telefax: (632) 812-7108

SEE POSTERS OR CONTACT "EVENTS CIRCUIT" FOR MORE DETAILS, OR LOG ON AT
www.jnjgirlfriends.com or http://www.candymag.com/friendship

Another exciting event from Johnson & Johnson girlfriends

Endorsed by PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION


The Quest is Over!
introducing the
COTTON USA
MOVING spirits
Paolo Bagaman, Honor Student and Future President
Chris de Lima, Champion Archer
Pauline Baniqued, Future Bestselling Author
Miggy Yam, Outstanding Soccer Player
Jude Eustaquio, Champion International Junior Golfer
Celline Guillermo, Multi-Awarded Painter

They came. They moved us with their youthful ambitions and noteworthy achievements. They conquered. COTTON USA presents its first batch of Moving Spirits. Six spirited achievers ready and raring to make a difference. So look out world!

Presenting our raffle draw winners!

Our way of thanking you for making our search a moving experience!

1st prize – Sony Home Entertainment Package

LENNY B. AMADA – 70 Ma. Clara St., Taytay, Rizal

2nd prize – Trip for 2 to BANGKOK

EVELYN PANTAYO – 51 San Jose Village, Project 8, Quezon City

3rd Prize – 10 Sony Discmans

1. Sylvia Guarenia
   116 C. Benitez St., Cubao, Quezon City
2. Ronaldo H. Gran
   11 Sto. Niño St., Payatas A, Quezon City
3. Cristina M. Roque
   11 Alloa St. Brittany, Fairview, Quezon City
4. Christine L. Ramos
   0279 Abangan Norte, Marilao, Bulacan
5. Aurora B. Manipi
   1194-A Sunflower Tagumpay, Tondo, Manila
6. Rosalina Ganera
   Parong Buaya II, Imus, Cavite
7. Gilbert Bermeda
   Pasong Kawayan II, Gen. Trias, Cavite
8. Cecile M. Roque
   16 Alloa St. Brittany Fairview, Quezon City
9. Ronald Abila
   B1 L1 Ilang Ilang St. Paramount Village, Talon III, Las Piñas City
10. Socorro F. Lee.
    0279 Abangan Norte, Marilao, Bulacan

Consolation prizes – Breeze gift packs worth P3,000.

1. Analyn C. Galvan
   939 Ligao St., San Miguel, Manila
2. Myra Shiela G. Delos Ysinas
   38 Iron St. Villa Segunda, Pantoc, Meycauayan, Bulacan
3. Maria Theresa Fernandez
   Lot 19 Block 2 Phase 6 Bankers Village, San Mateo, Rizal
4. Herarie Mauricio
   #189 San Pedro St., Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija
5. Liza Taghoy
   3222 Teachers Village, Valenzuela City
6. Lina Romantico
   3020 A. G. Tuazon St., Sampaloc, Manila
7. Rosita Galuran
   Nava Hinunangan, So. Leyte
8. May Guerrero
   174 A. del Mundo St., 5th Ave. Grace Park, Caloocan City
9. Chesterwin V. Taeza
   6-A P. Mejia St., Libis, Quezon City
10. Jovie Francisco
    152 Bunducan, Bocaue, Bulacan
11. Girlie C. Legacion
    1688 Abangan Sur, Marilao, Bulacan
12. Jocelyn Bastillada
    27 Stanford A. Hidalgo, Pasay City
13. Russel Cabal
    1191 Villa Amparo Subd., Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite
14. Feliciana DC Agsaoay
    #697 Libis St., Duhat, Bocaue, Bulacan
15. Tomas B. Maddela III
    1692 Bambang St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
16. Merly E. Gungon
    1277 Barcelno Ext., Moriones, Tondo, Manila
17. Annelyn Estrera
    202 Baltazar St. 5th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City
18. Marites D. Santos
    26 F MEQ BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
19. Sol I. Santiago
    26 Bathalumn St. Dona Amada Subd., Rosario, Pasig City
20. Lee Añasco
    196 I. Francisco, San Juan, Metro Manila

COTTON USA

That's the spirit

In cooperation with:

BREEZE

BREEZE

CLOSE-UP

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0355. Series of 2001

For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

2bU!

to be young • to be you • to be

to • To be you!

BACK2BACK. Theirs is a fashion collage you wouldn't miss.

Raiding the mall runways

By Happy David and Pam Pastor
Photos by Val Handumon

HANDCUFFS hooked to our belt loops and badges on display, the 2bU! fashion police invaded two of the city's most frequented malls late Saturday afternoon in search of the most stylish—and the most outrageous—shoppers.

On this and subsequent pages are the day's unusual suspects.

RAIDING/p.D2

CAN'T make up your mind? Layer it on with a pants and skirt combination.

No More WART WORRIES!

REMOVAL OF ALL KINDS OF WARTS, MILIA, SYRINGOMA, SKIN TAGS, CHOLESTEROL DEPOSITS AND FLAT MOLES.

WITH THE USE OF THE MOST ADVANCED, HIGHLY-EFFECTIVE METHOD THAT LEAVES YOUR SKIN **CLEARER, CLEANER & CLOSER** TO YOUR DESIRED BEAUTY!

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ALABANG: UG-G Industrial Enterprises Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, MM
LEGASPI CITY: Unit 2, Alcazar Bldg. Rizal St., Legaspi City

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BOWL-ALL-YOU-CAN

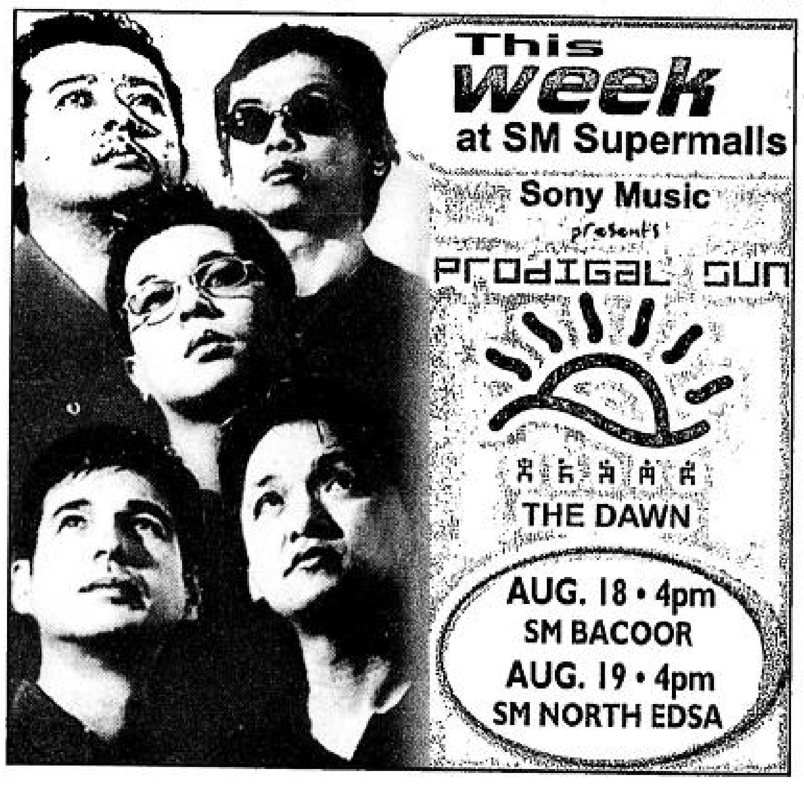
Just bowl by the hour in a lane and play as many games as you can.

Valid from opening to 8 pm only, Mondays to Fridays excluding holidays. Excess time will be charged accordingly.

SM BOWLING CENTER
NORTH EDSA • MEGAMALL • CEBU

Promo runs from July 16 to September 30, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2552, Series of 2000

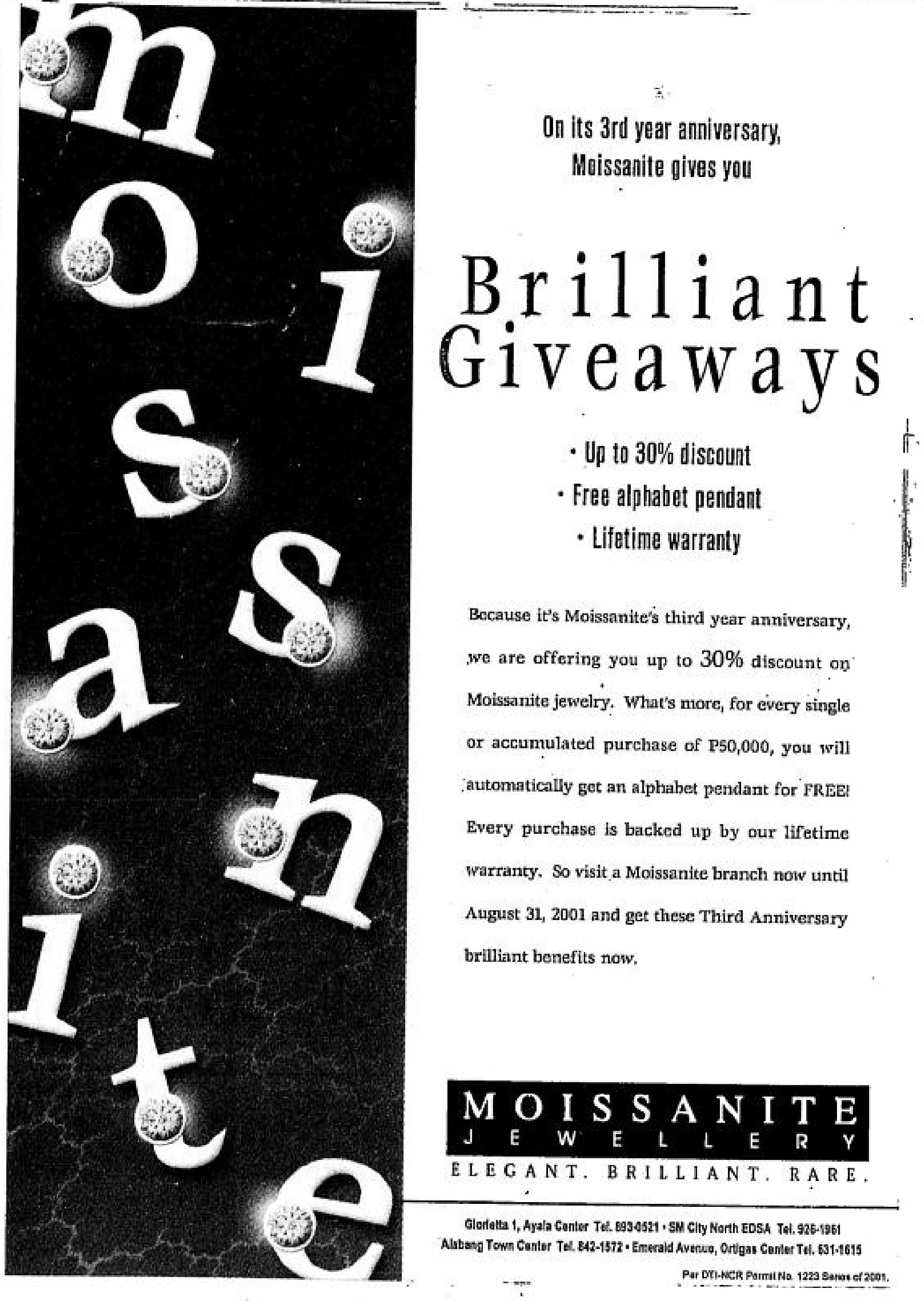


This Week at SM Supermalls

Sony Music presents PRODIGAL SUN

THE DAWN

AUG. 18 • 4pm
SM BACOOR
AUG. 19 • 4pm
SM NORTH EDSA



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On its 3rd year anniversary,
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Brilliant Giveaways

- Up to 30% discount
- Free alphabet pendant
- Lifetime warranty

Because it's Moissanite's third year anniversary, we are offering you up to 30% discount on Moissanite jewelry. What's more, for every single or accumulated purchase of P50,000, you will automatically get an alphabet pendant for FREE! Every purchase is backed up by our lifetime warranty. So visit a Moissanite branch now until August 31, 2001 and get these Third Anniversary brilliant benefits now.

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Glorietta 1, Ayala Center Tel. 893-0521 • SM City North EDSA Tel. 926-1961
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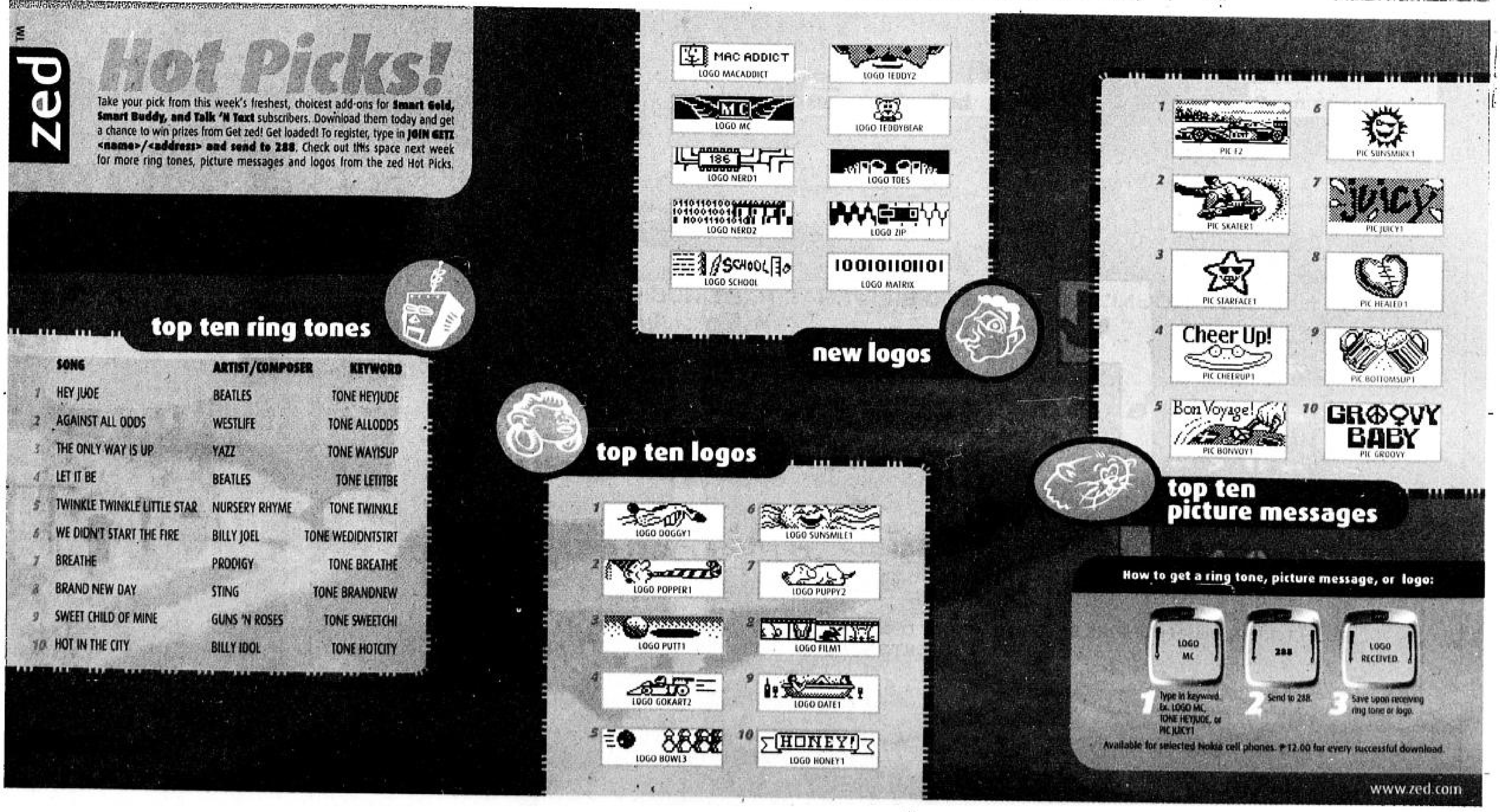
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1223 Series of 2001.



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Hot Picks!

Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest add-ons for **Smart Gold, Smart Buddy, and Talk 'N Text** subscribers. Download them today and get a chance to win prizes from Get zed! Get loaded! To register, type in **JOIN GETZ <name>/<address> and send to 288**. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the zed Hot Picks.

top ten ring tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	HEY JUDE	BEATLES	TONE HEYJUDE
2	AGAINST ALL ODDS	WESTLIFE	TONE ALLODDS
3	THE ONLY WAY IS UP	YAZZ	TONE WAYISUP
4	LET IT BE	BEATLES	TONE LETITBE
5	TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR	NURSERY RHYME	TONE TWINKLE
6	WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE	BILLY JOEL	TONE WEDIDNTSTRT
7	BREATHE	PRODIGY	TONE BREATHE
8	BRAND NEW DAY	STING	TONE BRANDNEW
9	SWEET CHILD OF MINE	GUNS 'N ROSES	TONE SWEETCHI
10	HOT IN THE CITY	BILLY IDOL	TONE HOTCITY

new logos

LOGO MACADDICT
LOGO TEDDY2
LOGO MC
LOGO TEDDYBEAR
LOGO NERD1
LOGO TOES
LOGO NERD2
LOGO ZIP
LOGO SCHOOL
LOGO MATRIX

top ten logos

1 LOGO DOGGY1
2 LOGO POPPER1
3 LOGO PUTT1
4 LOGO GOKART2
5 LOGO BOWL3
6 LOGO SUNSMILE1
7 LOGO PUPPY2
8 LOGO FILM1
9 LOGO DATE1
10 LOGO HONEY1

top ten picture messages

1 PIC F2
2 PIC SKATER1
3 PIC STARFACE1
4 PIC CHEERUP1
5 PIC BONVOY1
6 PIC SUNSMIRK1
7 PIC JUICY1
8 PIC HEALED1
9 PIC BOTTOMSUP1
10 PIC GROOVY

How to get a ring tone, picture message, or logo:

1 Type in keyword. Ex. LOGO MC, TONE HEYJUDE, or PIC JUICY1
2 Send to 288.
3 Save upon receiving ring tone or logo.

Available for selected Nokia cell phones. ₱12.00 for every successful download.

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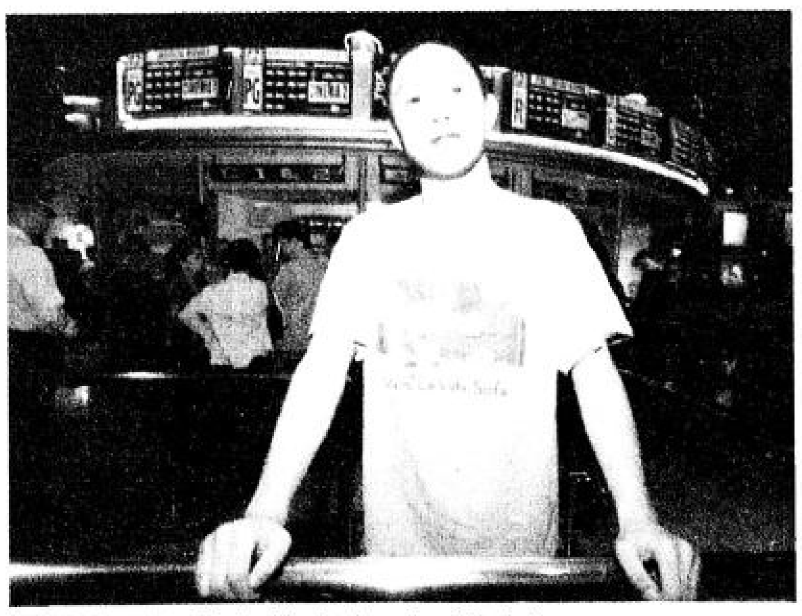
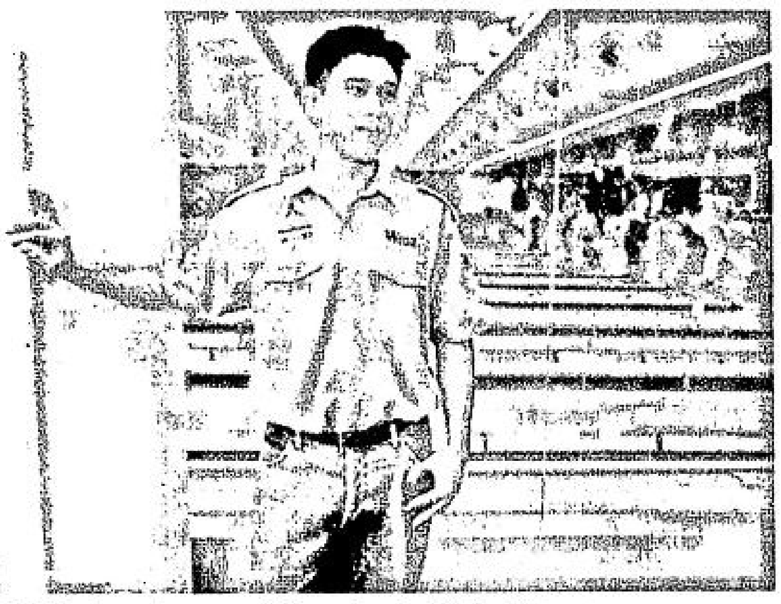
Raiding the mall runways

BRIT pop invades the Manila malls.



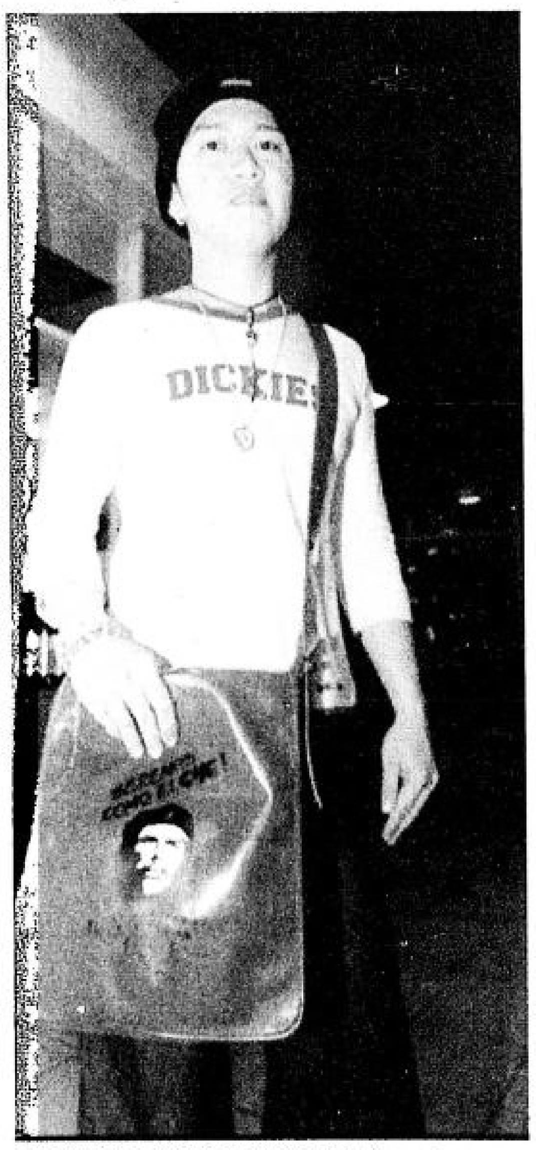
COUCH potato Ricky Martin invades Glorietta.



DUDE, where's my car? Dressing in F1 fashion.

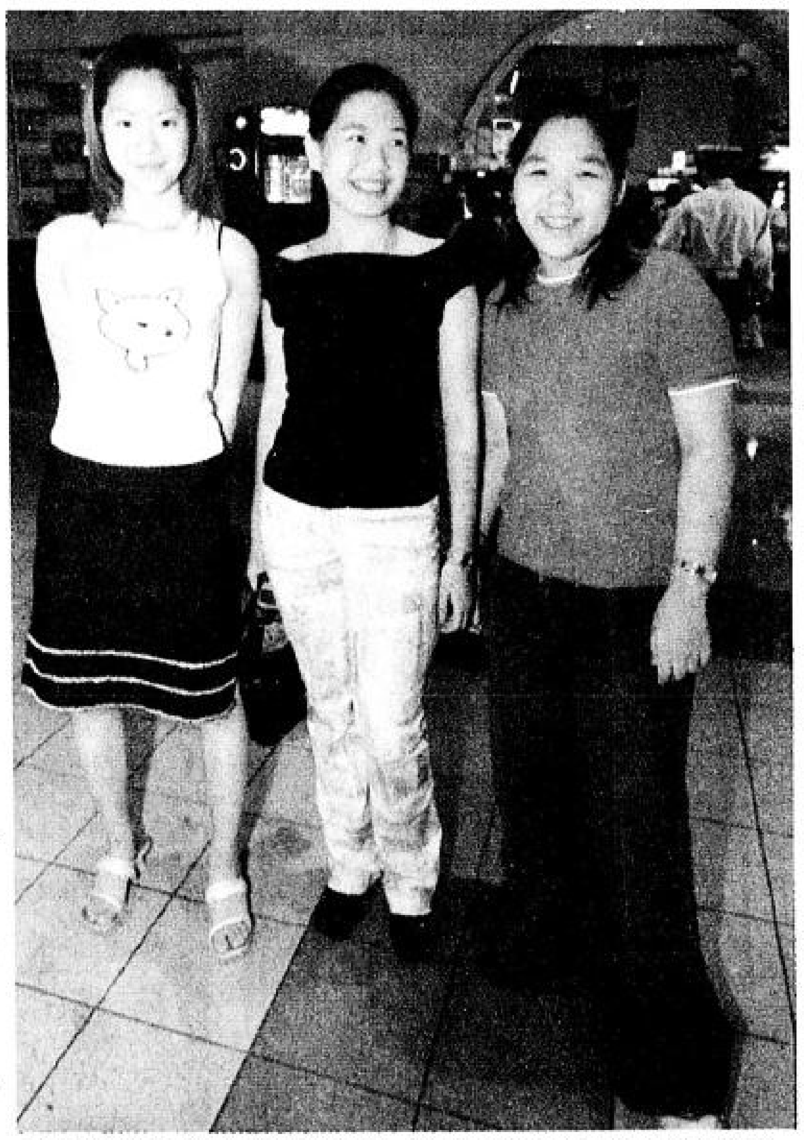
Mall fashion is as wildly different as the moods and the meanderings of the young

RAIDING/p.D4



FASHION REVOLUTION. Toting along with Che Gueverra

CASUAL CHIC. Ruffled top with denims and tank top paired with thongs make for a classy statement.



JOSIES AND THE PUSSYCAT. No identical dressing for these young ladies

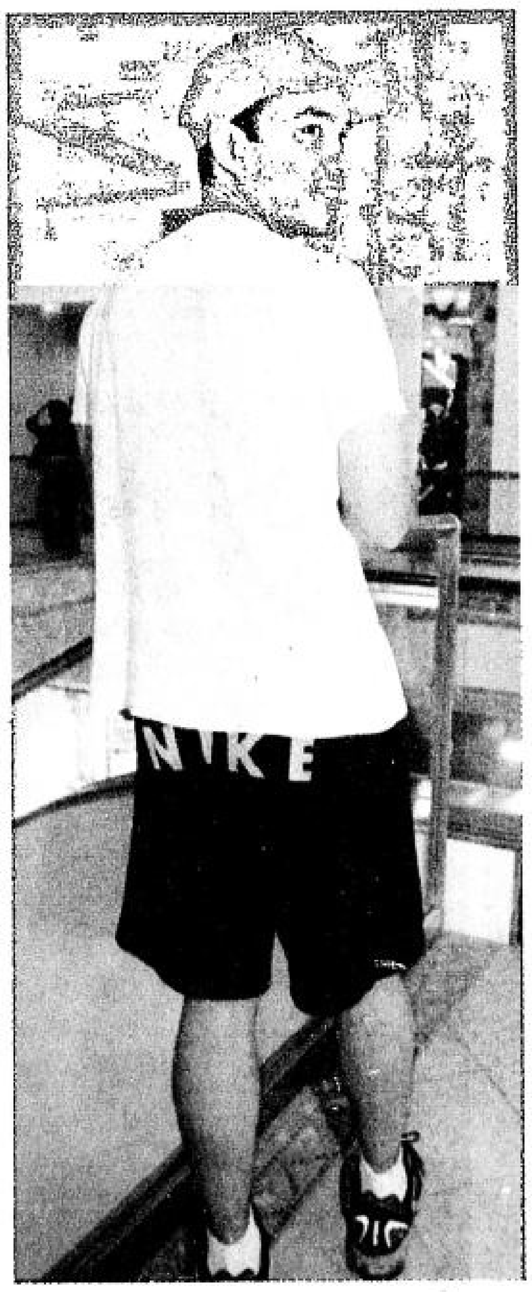
ANNOUNCING A SALE SO BIG, IT HAS TO BE HUSH-HUSH.

RUSH TO THE HUSH PUPPIES SALE AND ENJOY DISCOUNTS OF UP TO 70%* OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS.
FROM AUG 1 TO SEPT. 15, 2001

360 HUSH PUPPIES STORES: ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA; SM SOUTHMALL; SM CITY FAIRVIEW; FESTIVAL MALL ALABANG; DESIGNER DEPOT; AYALA CENTER CEBU; SM CITY CEBU; ROBINSON'S PLACE CEBU • **BEA AND BERNARD STORES:** CENTER PLAZA MALL BATAAN; GAISANO MALL DAVAO; EVER GOTESCO COMMONWEALTH; ROBINSON'S PLACE BACOLOD; GAISANO MALL CAGAYAN DE ORO; FIESTA WORLD MALL LIPA • **SOON TO OPEN:** ROBINSON'S PLACE METRO EAST; MOLVINA COMPLEX ANTIPOLO; OUTLET YARD QUEZON AVENUE **DEPARTMENT STORES:** SM DEPARTMENT STORES; ROBINSON'S DEPT. STORES; CINDERELLA; LANDMARK; ISETANN; STA. LUCIA EAST DEPT. STORE; EVER DEPARTMENT STORES

* 5% SURCHARGE APPLIES ON CARD PURCHASE

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 2348 SERIES OF 2001



JUST DOING IT. Track around the mall in this comfortable ensemble.

Confessions of a cheapskate

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

AS someone who resides in a house beautifully situated near a mall, I am compelled to pass by it every day and salivate after the smorgasbord of yummies, clothes, readables and mall creatures.

As a student in possession of an extremely thin wallet, which serves as a mini photo album, a calling card container, scratch paper storage space and money holder (in that particular order), I am considered poor and forever cursed to be a window shopper, unless I get spotted by some talent scout, become a commercial model and eventually make a splash in Hollywood.

I suffer each day, excruciating pain running through my veins. But since I have a great love for myself, I have recently vowed to live a fulfilling mall life even if I don't have an attache case packed with bills, bills, bills.

And now I present to you, quite shamelessly, my confessions.

Confession No. 1: I have checked every mall's weekend sale sked and made sure I saved for each.

Confession No. 2: I have availed of "buy one-take one" offers and seriously considered the "buy two-take one's."

Confession No. 3: I have been religiously buying children's clothes because they're much cheaper and they have more fun designs. Unfortunately, my kid sis borrows them all the time.

Confession No. 4: I have listened to each and every CD featured at listening stations in record bars. I may not be able to buy cassettes, much more CDs, but I surely can't afford to be out of the loop!

Confession No. 5: I have refused to buy any overpriced readable and so I just scan and rescan every magazine and book in every bookstore. For crying out loud, I know the exact location of any book—by heart!

Confession No. 6: I have fought hunger pangs by being a *suki* of all those taste-test booths and actually improved on my impersonating skills.

Confession No. 7: I have collected handouts generous people give you at the entrance, and have used them as stationery.

Confession No. 8: I have been transformed into a beautiful creature. Thanks to lotion, perfume, hand sanitizer and other testers.

Confession No. 9: I have been a human rights fighter by always demanding for my exact change, even if it's only 15 centavos.

Confession No. 10: I have collected ketchup, salt, sugar and creamer packets, and now I sell them to my classmates whenever they're too lazy to ask for an extra order at the counter.

Confession No. 11: I have spent countless hours watching movies beamed by those huge flat TV sets on display in appliance stores.

Confession No. 12: I have waited until the last minute before closing just to avail of special discounts in food stores.

LESS
SALE
50% OFF

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

It's a mall world

By Melissa Anne Telan
2bU! Correspondent

HOW will we ever get by without malls? Whether as a place to meet people, dine and shop with the family, girl/boy watch with chums or just lounge around out of habit, malls have certainly become an indispensable part of our lives.

Why do we love malls so much?

Reason No. 1: Entertainment—We go to the mall to relax and enjoy. The week was hell and we deserve, heck we demand, a break. So we go and visit the nearest shopping center to watch the latest box-office hit, sip coffee while reading a newly-purchased bestseller, hit the pool tables with the *barkada* or go on a shopping spree.

Besides housing several amenities, the mall itself is a form of entertainment. It's the perfect place to people-watch in—who in the city hasn't been to a mall? Sometimes, you'll even spot a celebrity or two casually strolling around. Free concerts are held there at times, so check the dailies for announcements.

Reason No. 2: Midnight-madness syndrome—Everyone loves bargains. So when our favorite mall declares: "Midnight madness! Up to 70 percent off on all items," our adrenaline shoots up and we practically run to Ortigas, Ayala or whichever shopping district is having a sale. Okay, we know that "sales" are usually just a come-on and most stores are only willing to shave 20 percent, at the most, off their prices but, heck, we still buy.

Once we get there, it's a different story. A few minutes upon entering the building we figure that a big chunk of Metro Manila's population is here. Suddenly, it's a bloody competition. We rummage through bins and boxes of discounted goods. Never mind if we feel the next person breathing on our neck as long as we spot a good find. Sure, we grab an occasional bargain or two, but is it really worth the hassle of sore feet, claustrophobia, lack of parking space and bumper-to-bumper traffic? We decide that it is, and vow to come earlier for the next sale.

Reason No. 3: Escape the urban jungle—Sometimes, we just get tired of the Metro Manila scene: Traffic, pollution, unbearable heat, etc. Malls prove to be a refreshing break. Inside, we spot people sitting on benches, some out of exhaustion, others from lack of buying power. They go to the mall to avail of the free aircon and to behold the sights. And there are avid health buffs who decide that hitting the fully air-conditioned malls is better than walking the dust-infested streets (just steer clear of the food court, folks!).

Reason No. 4: There's no place like it—The mall is a world all its own. There is always something to do there for everyone, regardless of age, gender and class. It is a home away from home, providing comfort and ease from the harsh realities of the metro.

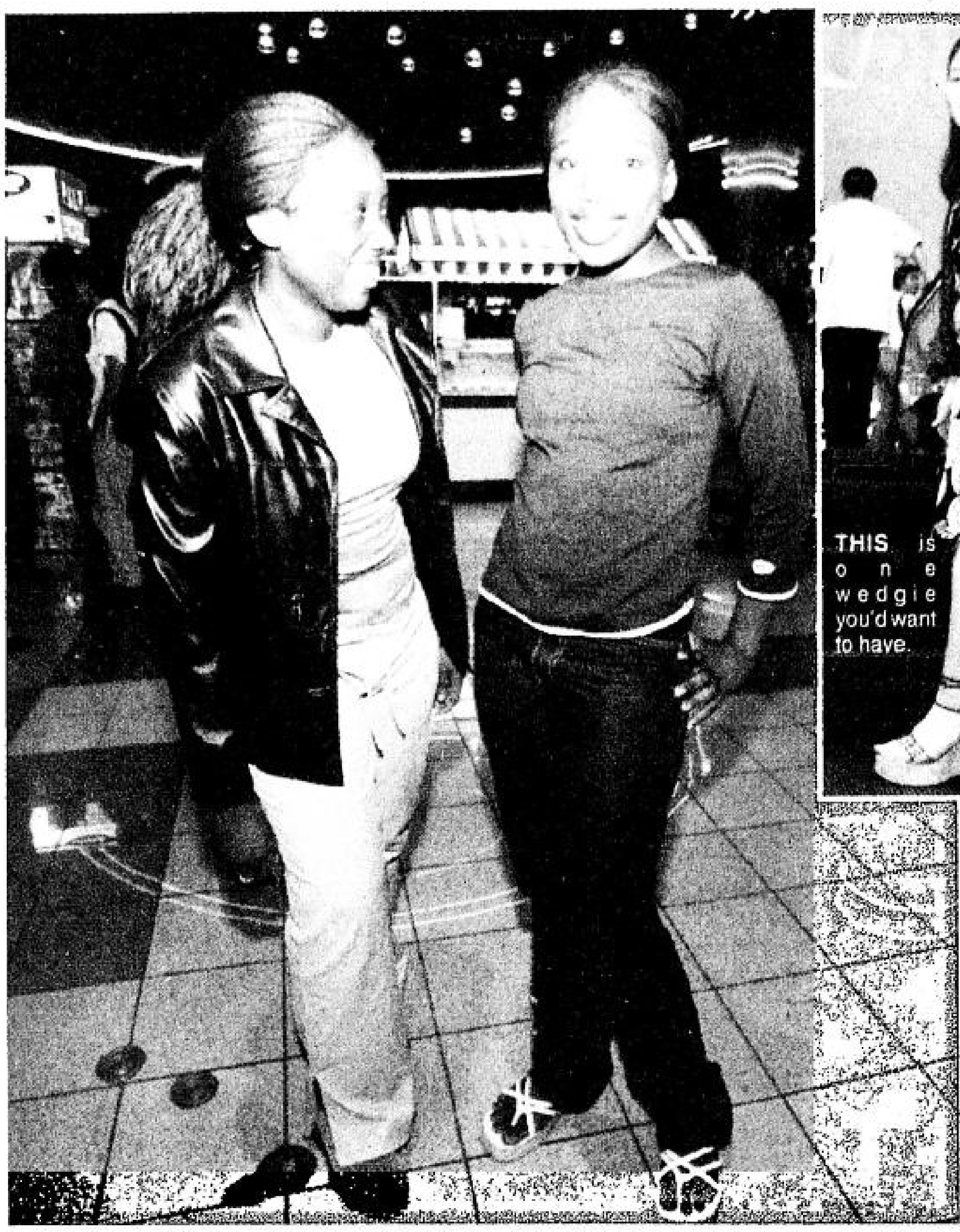
As long as you have a few pesos, sometimes even if you don't have any at all, you are guaranteed a few hours of luxury and pleasure. And you're always welcome to come back the next day.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@yahoo.com

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

SOCKS & STOCKINGS SALE
Aug. 15 - Sept. 15
Save up to 50% on Men's, Ladies', and Children's socks and stockings
BURLINGAME BURLINGTON DARLINGTON LADY PRESIDENT BALLY
DUNLOP SEVENTEEN PITCHECO TOMMY SPORTS ANFANNA GOLDTOE
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1245, Series of 2001
SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

Raiding the mall runways



EBONY and EBONY. You don't have to wear black to be beautiful.

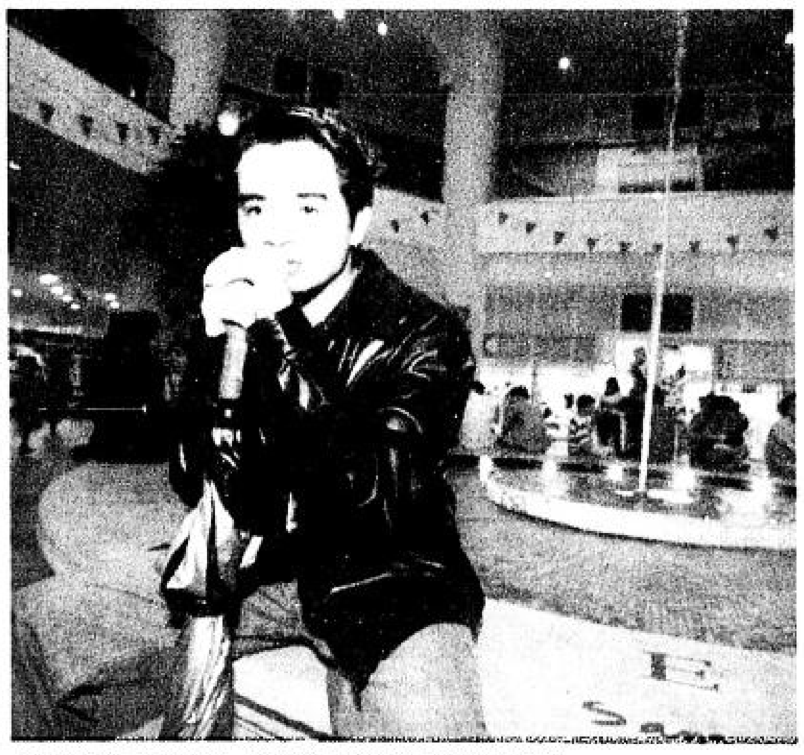
THIS is one wedgie you'd want to have.

HANSEL and Gretel find a home in the mall.

THANKS TO: BERRY MARFORI, CATHY BENGSON AND JINGJING ROMERO

LOCATION: POWER PLANT MALL AND GLORIETTA

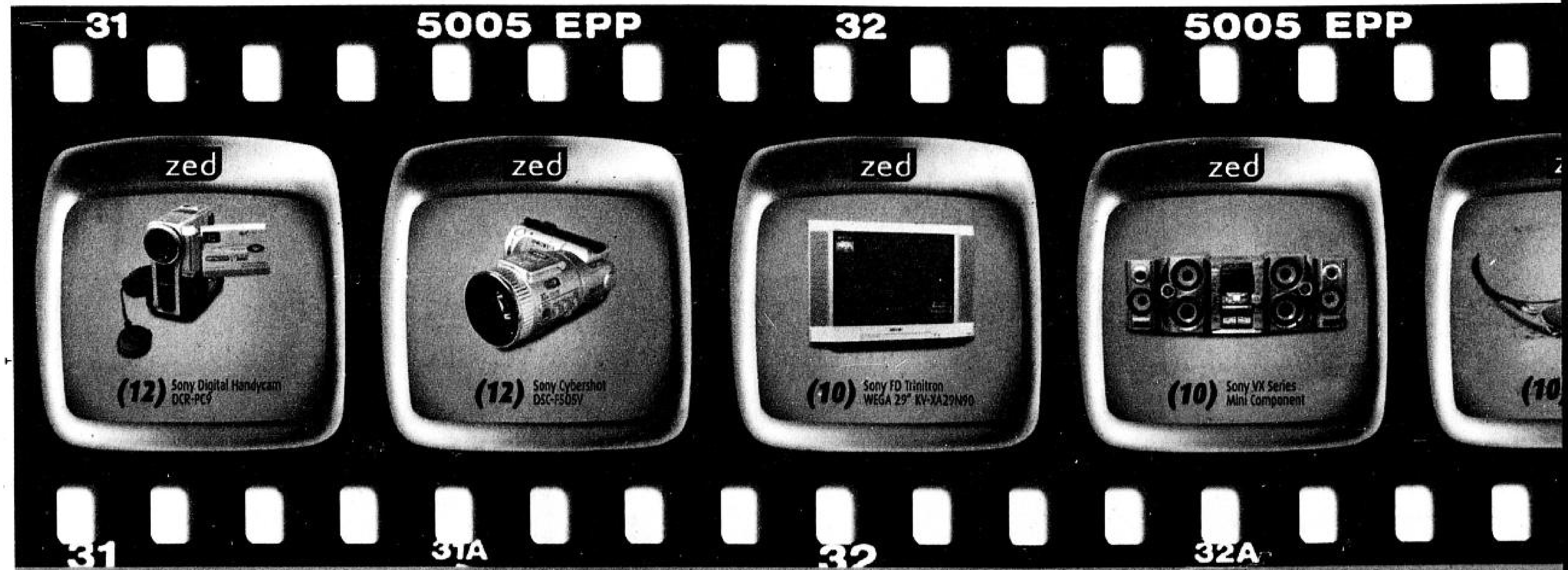
LILAC LADIES. Lavender is the color of their day.



RAIN, rain, go away... little pouty boy wants to play.

DOING the daily grind with comfort and ease.

MAKE heads turn with this updated James Dean look.



31 5005 EPP 32 5005 EPP
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(10
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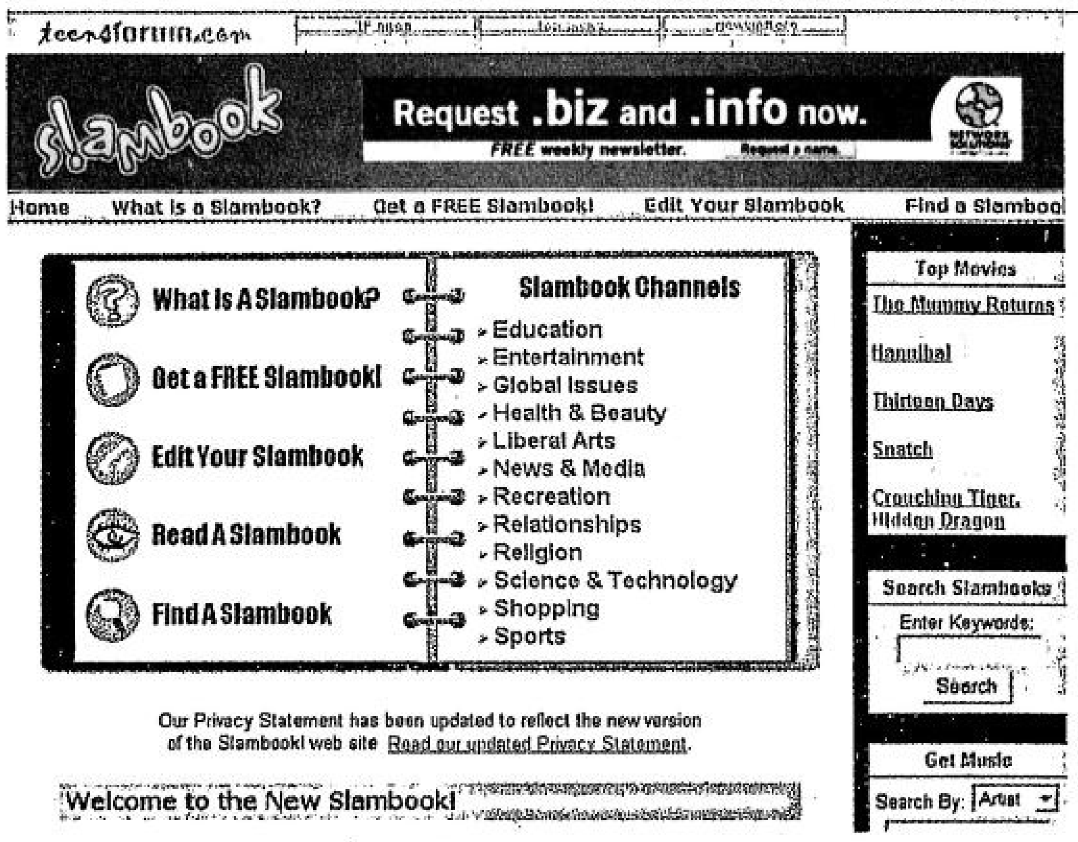
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Our Privacy Statement has been updated to reflect the new version of the Slambook! web site Read our updated Privacy Statement.

Welcome to the New Slambook!

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Slambook in the cyber age

Online autograph books give a new twist to the old grade school favorite

www.slambook.com

By Pam Pastor

YOU remember them. Colorful notebooks that were passed around in your classroom back in grade school. If you were lucky enough to be asked to sign one, you did so with utmost concentration, trying to produce your best handwriting, fingers gripping your pen tightly, bearing down hard on the paper. You realized that what you wrote would be read again and again by those who would write after you. You were careful. You were, after all, leaving an imprint of your existence in your classmate's autograph book. Your answers to the trivial and cheesy questions would be taken as a key to the real you. And years later, when these books were dug up, they would provide entertainment—comedy, mostly.

The Internet offers the same kind of thrill. There isn't anyone in the connected world who hasn't received one of the spammed getting-to-know-you surveys. And if you enjoy typing away your answers and sending them out to your friends, you are going to love 2bU!'s featured website this week.

Slambook.com, as its URL suggests, is an online slambook depository. You have several options when you visit the site. You may sign a particular slambook you are invited to, you may search for slambooks that would interest you, you may read other people's answers or, more interestingly, you may create your own free slambook. The steps are easy. A Net-savvy first-grader can do it in a jiffy. Just sign up by entering your username, which incidentally will also become your slambook's name. Type in basic info about yourself (you may choose whether or not you would allow other people to view your profile) and choose how you want your slambook to look. There are several templates available. And don't worry, you can modify them later to your liking. Then comes the fun part—choosing the questions. The webmasters of Slambook.com have a ready set of juicy questions—just check which ones you want to appear in your book. Here are a few: "Describe your first kiss"; "Have you ever cheated on your boyfriend/girlfriend?"; "If you were emperor of the entire universe, what would you do?" etc., etc., etc. You may also create five questions yourself if you think the questions they have prepared lack spunk. Each book may have a maximum of 20 questions. When you're done, you may start inviting other people to sign your book. You have an option of getting e-mail notification every time someone signs.

If you have a homepage or are thinking of building one, the slambook may be a good alternative to the boring old guestbook (But you might also really milk it and have both if you wish). The website will provide you with instructions on how to link to your slambook page. If you don't have a homepage, no problem. Slambook.com will give you a link to your slambook that you can easily send to friends.

This is a load of fun and a great way to get to know your friends (Might just be the perfect opportunity to get them to spill their secrets). Head off to Slambook.com and have a blast. While you're at it, you might want to sign the 2bU! slambook, too. Just head on to www.slambook.com/viewsb.asp?id=584132. When your own slambooks are up and ready, write us and the 2bU! correspondents will gladly sign them.

E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurlmail.com

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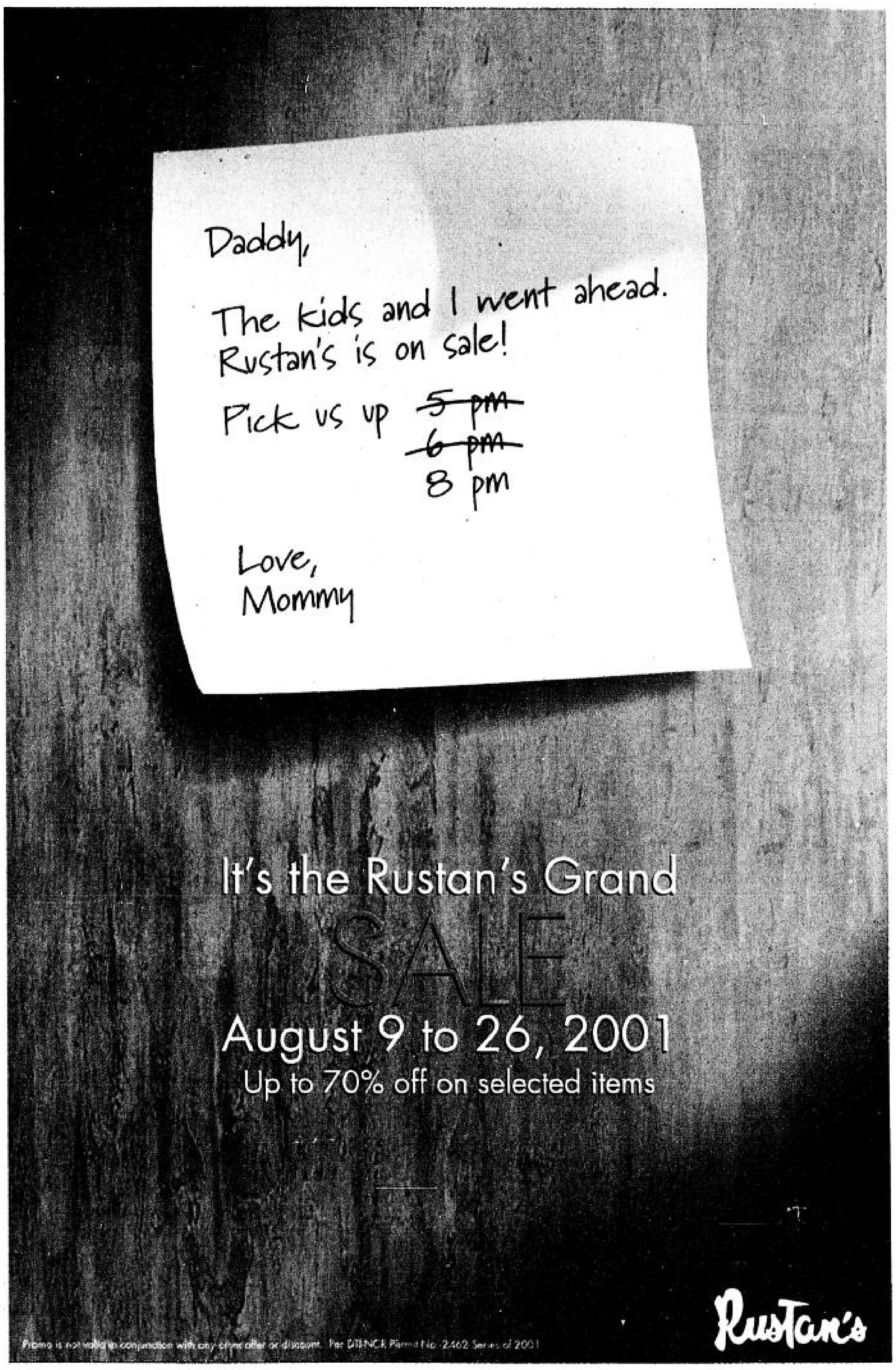

It's the Rustan's Grand SALE
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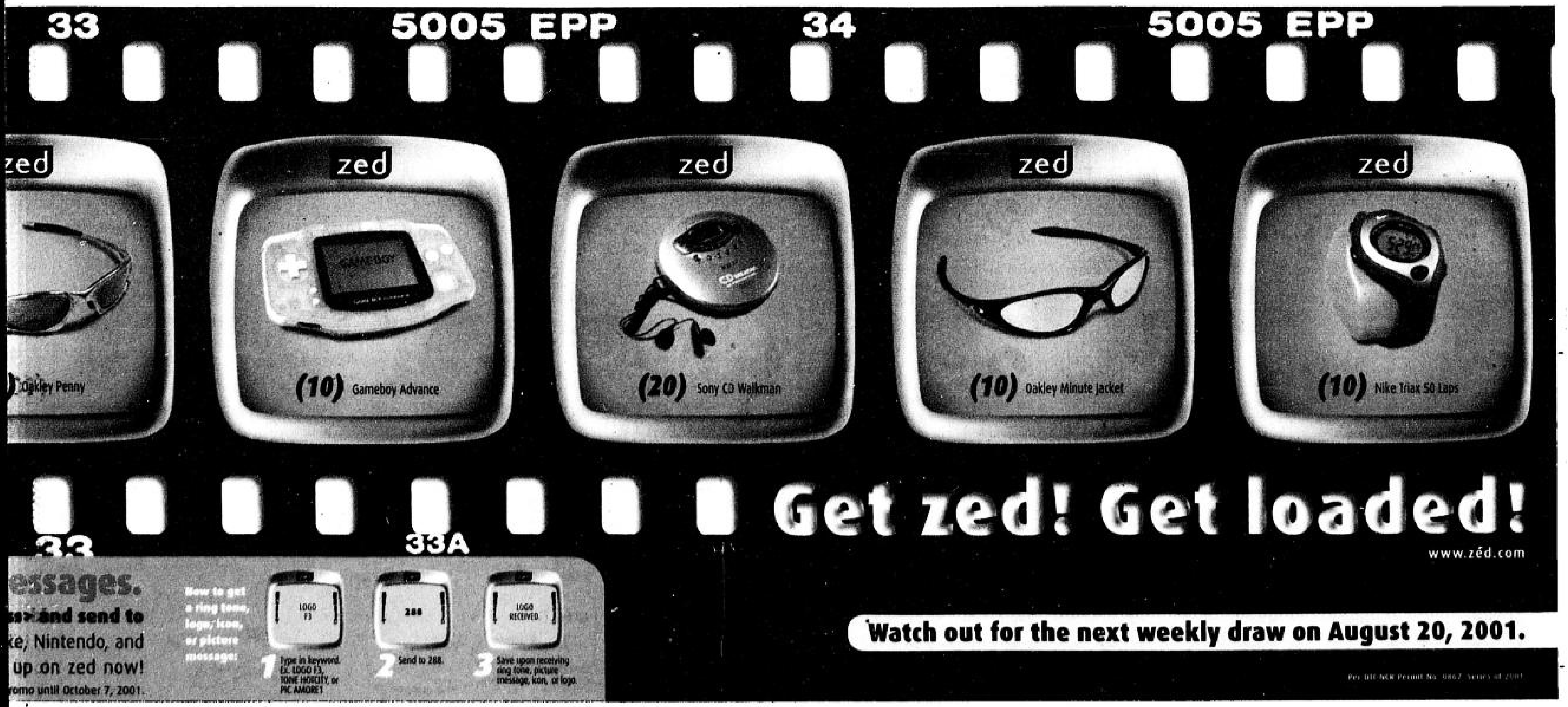
Promo is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2462 Series of 2001
Rustan's



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up on zed now!
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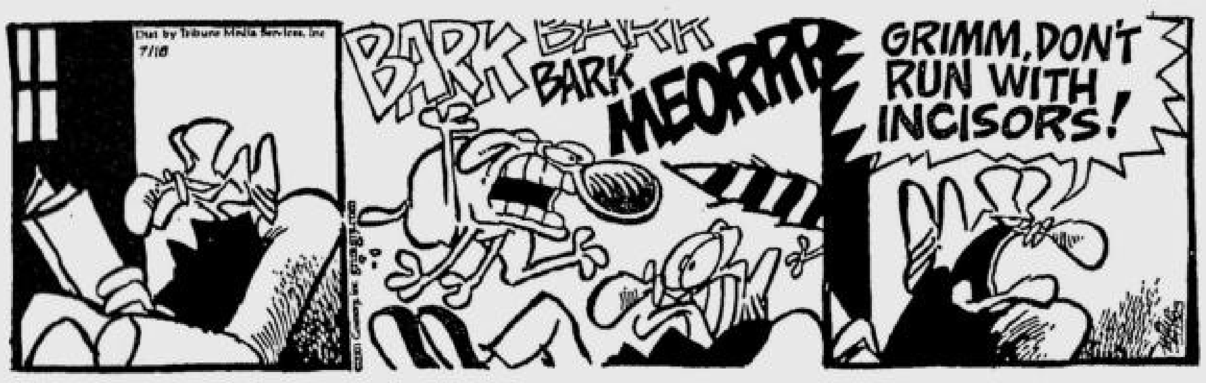
Watch out for the next weekly draw on August 20, 2001.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867 Series of 2001

COMIC Relief

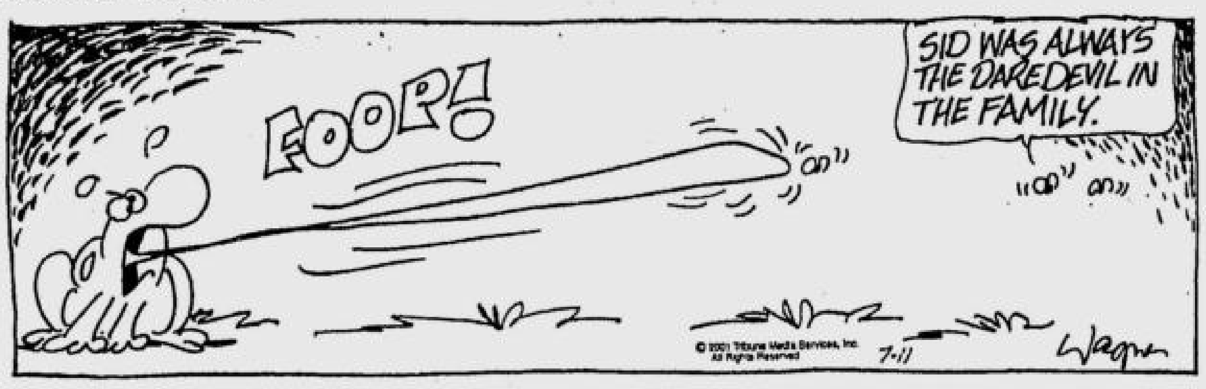
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc 7/18
BARK BARK BARK
MEORRR
GRIMM, DON'T RUN WITH INCISORS!

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


FOOP!
SID WAS ALWAYS THE DAREDEVIL IN THE FAMILY.
"OO" OO"
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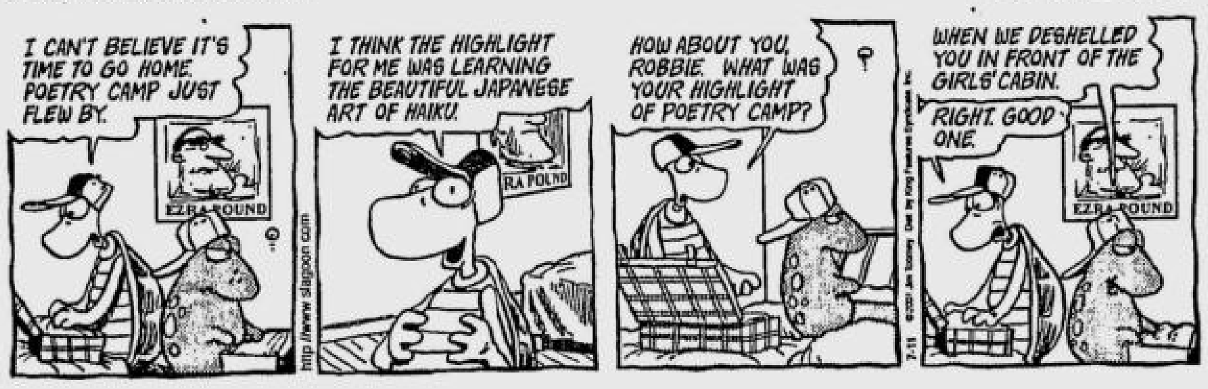
Wagner

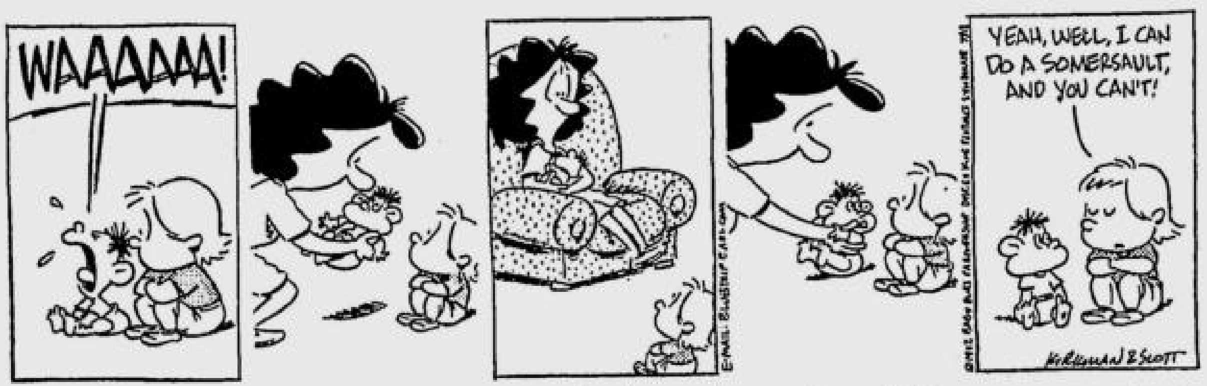
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO GO HOME. POETRY CAMP JUST FLEW BY.
EZRA POUND
http://www.slagoon.com
I THINK THE HIGHLIGHT FOR ME WAS LEARNING THE BEAUTIFUL JAPANESE ART OF HAIKU.
HOW ABOUT YOU, ROBBIE. WHAT WAS YOUR HIGHLIGHT OF POETRY CAMP?
WHEN WE DESHELLED YOU IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS' CABIN.
RIGHT. GOOD ONE.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAA!
YEAH, WELL, I CAN DO A SOMERSAULT, AND YOU CAN'T!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ben Affleck, Princess Anne, Julia Child, MCA, Debra Messing, Linda Ellerbee, Tess Harper

Happy Birthday: It's time for all your hard work to be put into motion, and the rewards should follow soon after. Prepare for the unexpected. The changes going on around you and within you will be positive and bring excellent results. Your numbers: 3, 19, 25, 33, 46, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get on with life. You've been dawdling around too long already. Make your move, state your piece and do your thing. Show the Aries force, and go after your goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to break out of this routine you're in and take on challenges that are offered. Don't hesitate to say no to those who have been taking advantage of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have to decide what you really want. Your versatility has led in many different directions, and now it's time to focus more precisely on the most meaningful goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be moody and drive your partner crazy. Stop and look hard at how difficult you are to get along with today. Don't make the day worse by forcing others to hide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get on with it. Don't get trapped in a love triangle that will affect every aspect of your life. Check out your motives and make a decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to interact with others if you want some of those ideas floating around in your head to gel. Getting involved in volunteer groups should spark some vision and insight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If the relationship you're in isn't working, then maybe it's time to reconsider whether or not you should be in it anymore.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be in a passionate and loving mood. Don't let others take advantage of your tenderness unless they are truly interested in being with you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You must not let anyone talk you into lending money. Gambling should be off limits, and letting children take advantage of your generosity will result in loss.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You and your mate should spend some quality time together. You need to share some of the dilemmas you both have been facing at work. Understanding will bring you closer together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can impress your boss with innovative ideas and efficiency. Pick up information on any new technology that can help you stay on top.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to take time for yourself. A new outfit, hairstyle or image will lift your spirits and enhance your looks. You will receive compliments for your efforts.

Birthday Baby: You have an analytical approach to whatever you do, and your desire to please others will result in respect as well as long-lasting friendships.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				18						19				
20			■	21					■	22				
23			24			■	25		26			■	■	■
■	■	■	27			28	■	■	29			30	31	32
33	34	35		■	■	36	37	38			■	39		
40				41	42						43			
44			■	45					■	■	46			
47			48			■	■	49	50	51		■	■	■
■	■	■	52			53	54	■	55			56	57	58
59	60	61			■	62		63			■	64		
65					66						67			
68				■	69					■	70			
71				■	72					■	73			

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

6/29/01

ACROSS
1 Surface measure
5 Closing measures
10 Sound stages
14 Watery
15 Lewis Carroll's heroine
16 Threesome
17 Predominate
20 Underground discovery
21 Quench
22 Bewildered
23 Staid
25 Hersey's bell town
27 Trunk coverage
29 Lightfoot or Johncock
33 Church recess
36 Point of contention
39 Undivided
40 Predominate
44 One of the Gershwins
45 Sound judgment
46 Book after Joel
47 Cheapen
49 Simon Says player
52 "Beau ___"
55 Fleet of warships
59 Ridicule
62 Champagne buckets
64 Make an offer
65 Predominate
68 Writer James
69 Eradicate
70 Transition point
71 Repair
72 Former senator Kefauver
73 Porter or stout

DOWN
1 Porthos' pal
2 Task
3 Stirred up
4 Conclude
5 One of two on the phone
6 ___ podrida
7 Former coach of the Bears
8 Suffered soreness
9 Comprehend
10 Stationary part
11 Goofs up
12 Powerful trend
13 Slugger Sammy
18 Cinema canine
19 Birchbark vessels
24 Adam's son
26 Shivering fit
28 Hot box
30 Ruinous fate
31 Not fooled by
32 Scottish loch
33 LSD, to users
34 Peel
35 Substantial chunk
37 Religious figs.
38 Mets stadium
41 Go-ahead
42 Majors and Marvin
43 Cause injury
48 Concurred
50 Diagrams, as a sentence
51 Formerly, once
53 Concert hall levels
54 Dazzling display
56 Dwelling
57 Funereal piece
58 Calculating snake?
59 Counterfeit
60 Bird confinement
61 Pizzeria necessity
63 Relaxation
66 "___ Haw"
67 Pattern of intrigue?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	R	A	M	A	■	S	A	P	■	S	T	A	M	P
A	I	M	E	R	■	E	V	A	■	L	A	M	A	R
L	O	O	S	E	■	P	O	T	■	O	S	A	K	A
I	T	I	S	N	O	T	W	H	A	T	T	H	E	Y
■	■	■	E	A	S	E	■	■	S	H	E	■	■	■
D	E	A	N	■	S	T	A	R	T	■	R	A	S	P
O	R	B	I	T	■	■	N	O	R	M	■	R	H	O
S	A	Y	A	B	O	U	T	Y	O	U	I	T	I	S
E	T	S	■	S	O	S	O	■	■	G	L	I	N	T
S	O	S	A	■	M	O	N	D	E	■	L	E	E	S
■	■	■	N	A	P	■	■	A	T	T	U	■	■	■
W	H	A	T	T	H	E	Y	W	H	I	S	P	E	R
H	E	L	L	O	■	W	A	D	■	T	I	L	D	E
O	A	T	E	N	■	E	L	L	■	A	V	O	I	D
A	D	O	R	E	■	S	E	E	■	N	E	W	T	S

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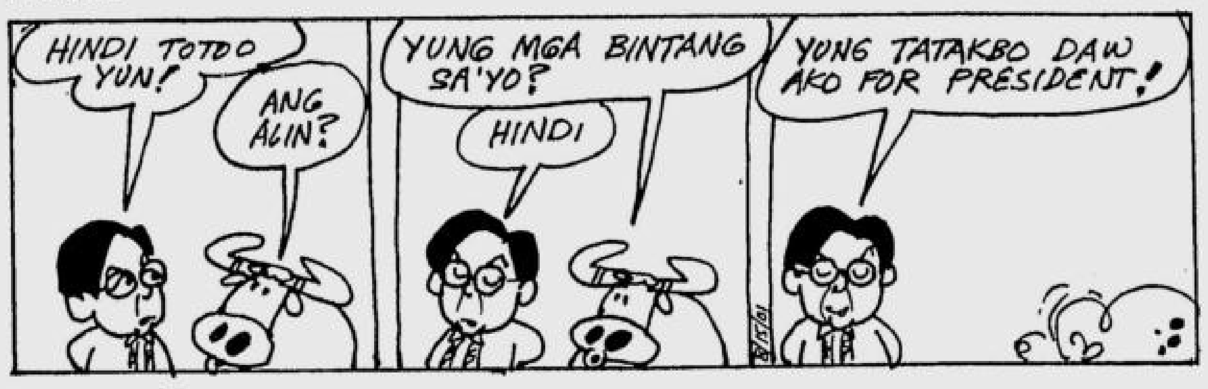
6/29/01

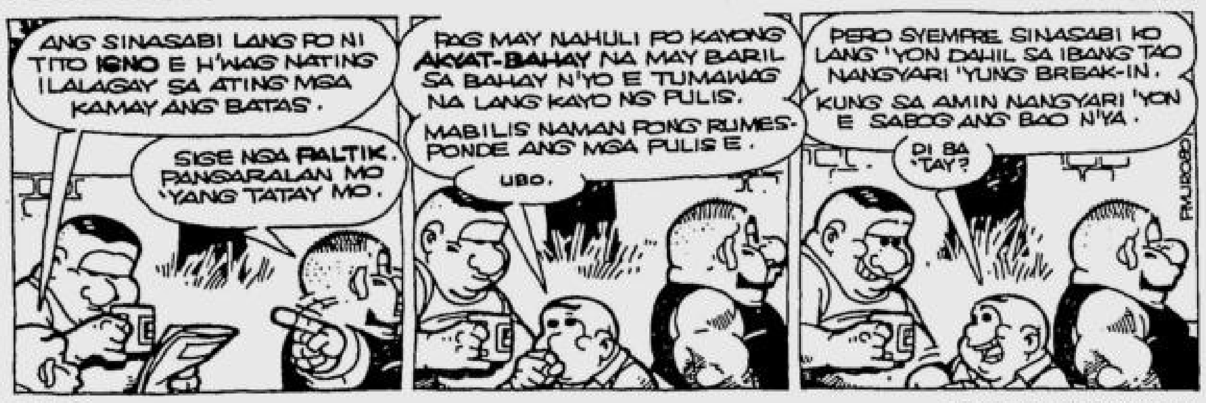
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI TOTOO YUN!
ANG ALIN?
YUNG MGA BINTANG SA'YO?
HINDI
YUNG TATAKBO DAW AKO FOR PRESIDENT!

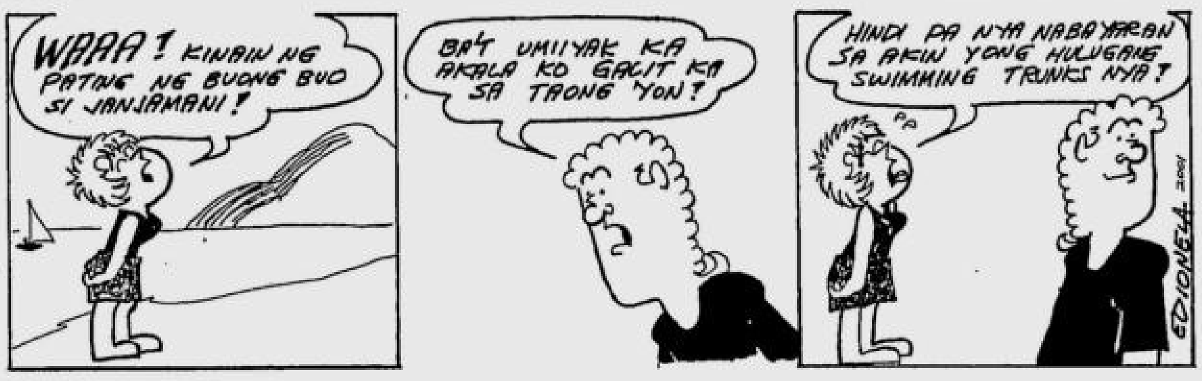
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG SINASABI LANG PO NI TITO IGNO E H'WAG NATING ILALAGAY SA ATING MGA KAMAY ANG BATAS.
SIGE NGA PALTIK. PANSARALAN MO 'YANG TATAY MO.
PAG MAY NAHULI PO KAYONG AKYAT-BAHAY NA MAY BARIL SA BAHAY N'YO E TUMAWAG NA LANG KAYO NG PULIS.
MABILIS NAMAN PONG RUMESPONDE ANG MGA PULIS E.
UBO.
PERO SYEMPRE SINASABI KO LANG 'YON DAHIL SA IBANG TAO NANGYARI 'YUNG BREAK-IN.
KUNG SA AMIN NANGYARI 'YON E SABOG ANG BAO N'YA.
DI BA 'TAY?
PMJR

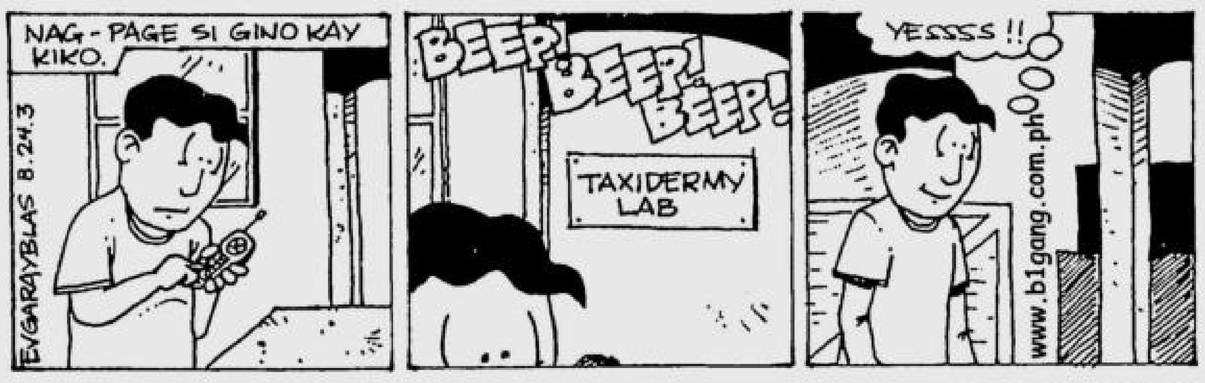
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


WAAA! KINAIN NG PATING NG BUONG BUO SI JANJAMANI!
BA'T UMIIYAK KA AKALA KO GALIT KA SA TAONG 'YON?
HINDI PA NYA NABAYARAN SA AKIN YONG HULUGANG SWIMMING TRUNKS NYA?
EDIONELA 2001

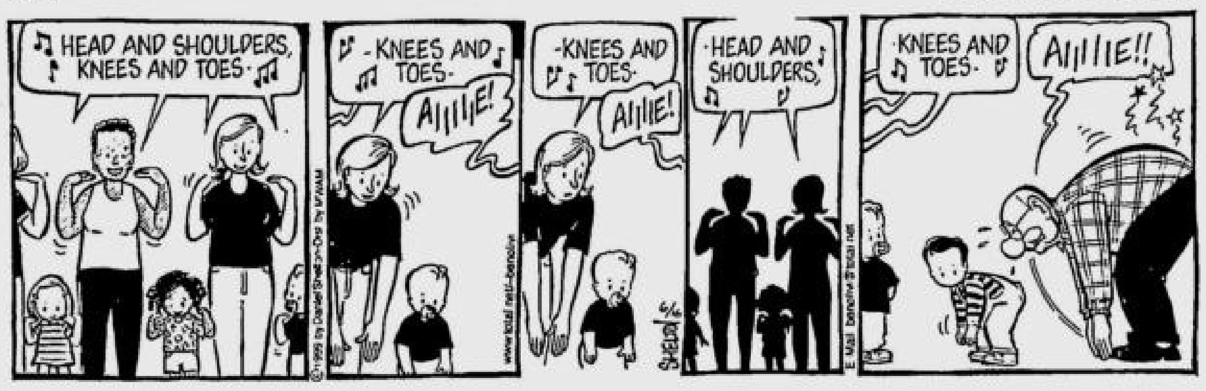
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


NAG-PAGE SI GINO KAY KIKO.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.24.3
BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
TAXIDERMY LAB
YESSSS!!
www.b1gang.com.ph

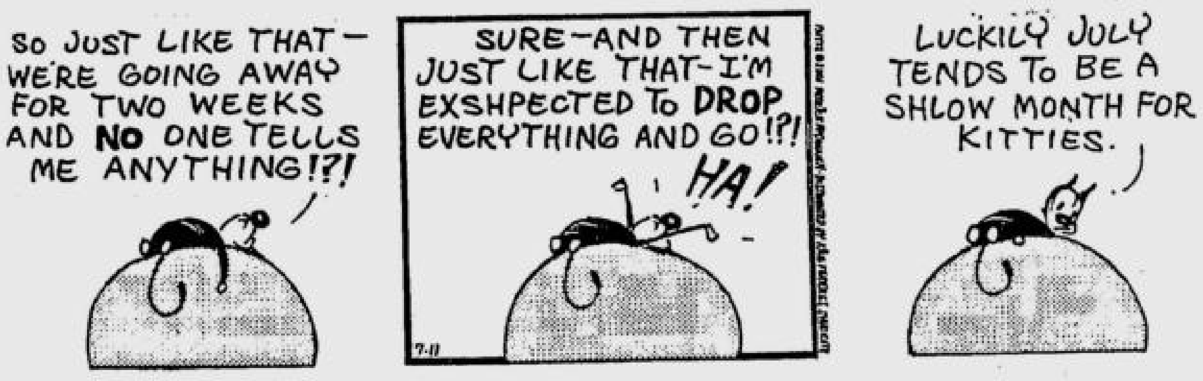
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEAD AND SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES.
-KNEES AND TOES-
AIIIIE!
-KNEES AND TOES-
AIIIIE!
-HEAD AND SHOULDERS,
KNEES AND TOES-
AIIIIE!!
SHELTON

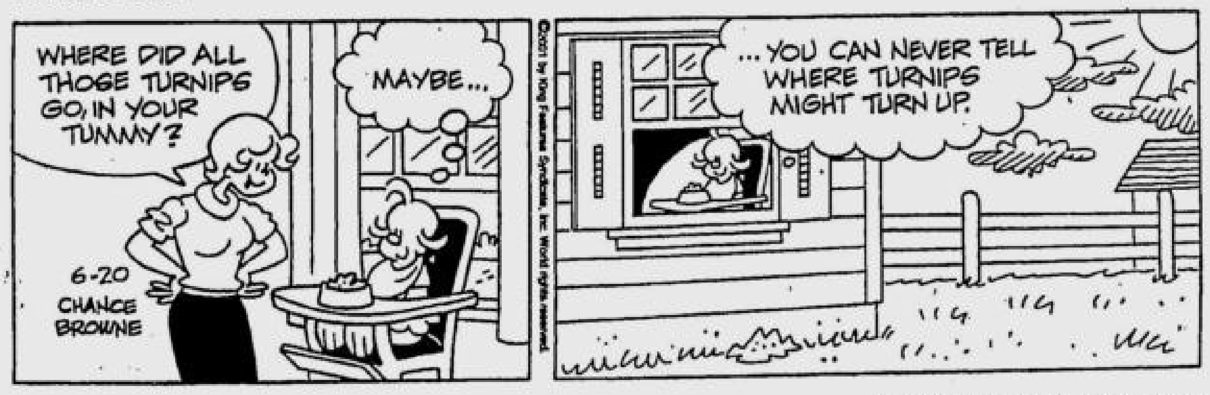
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


So JUST LIKE THAT— WE'RE GOING AWAY FOR TWO WEEKS AND NO ONE TELLS ME ANYTHING!?!
SURE—AND THEN JUST LIKE THAT—I'M EXSHPECTED To DROP EVERYTHING AND GO!?!
HA!
LUCKILY JULY TENDS To BE A SHLOW MONTH FOR KITTIES.
7-11

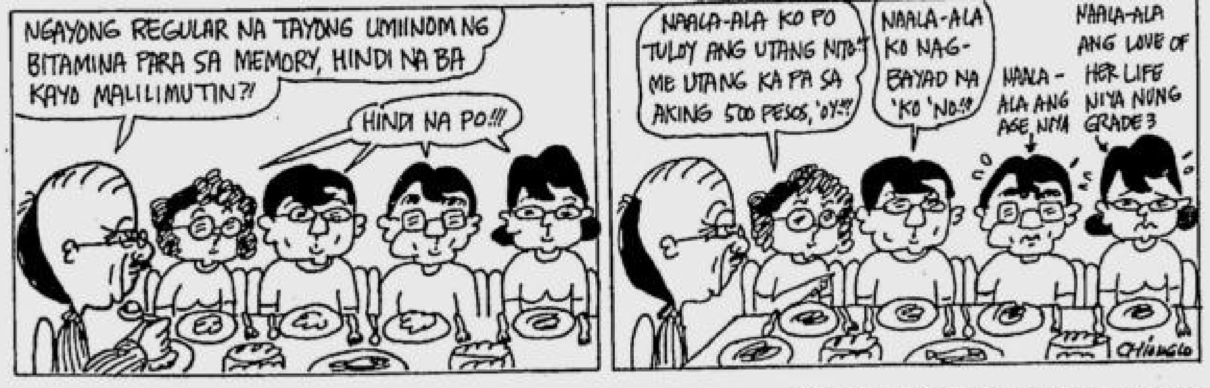
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHERE DID ALL THOSE TURNIPS GO, IN YOUR TUMMY?
MAYBE...
6-20
CHANCE BROWNE
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
...YOU CAN NEVER TELL WHERE TURNIPS MIGHT TURN UP.

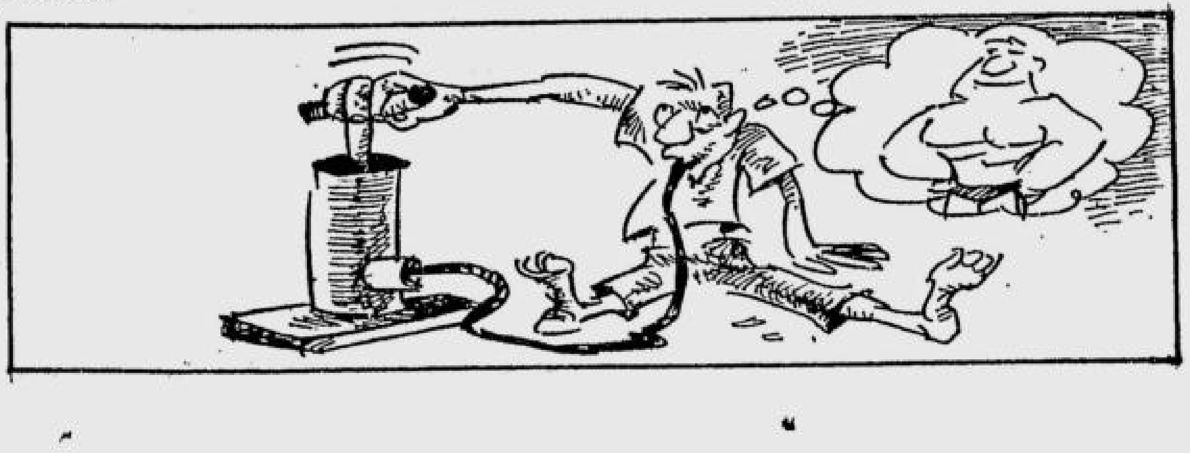
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NGAYONG REGULAR NA TAYONG UMIINOM NG BITAMINA PARA SA MEMORY, HINDI NA BA KAYO MALILIMUTIN?!
HINDI NA PO!!!
NAALA-ALA KO PO TULOY ANG UTANG NITO! ME UTANG KA PA SA AKING 500 PESOS, 'OY!
NAALA-ALA KO NAG-BAYAD NA 'KO 'NO!!
NAALA-ALA ANG AGE NIYA
NAALA-ALA ANG LOVE OF HER LIFE NIYA NUNG GRADE 3
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



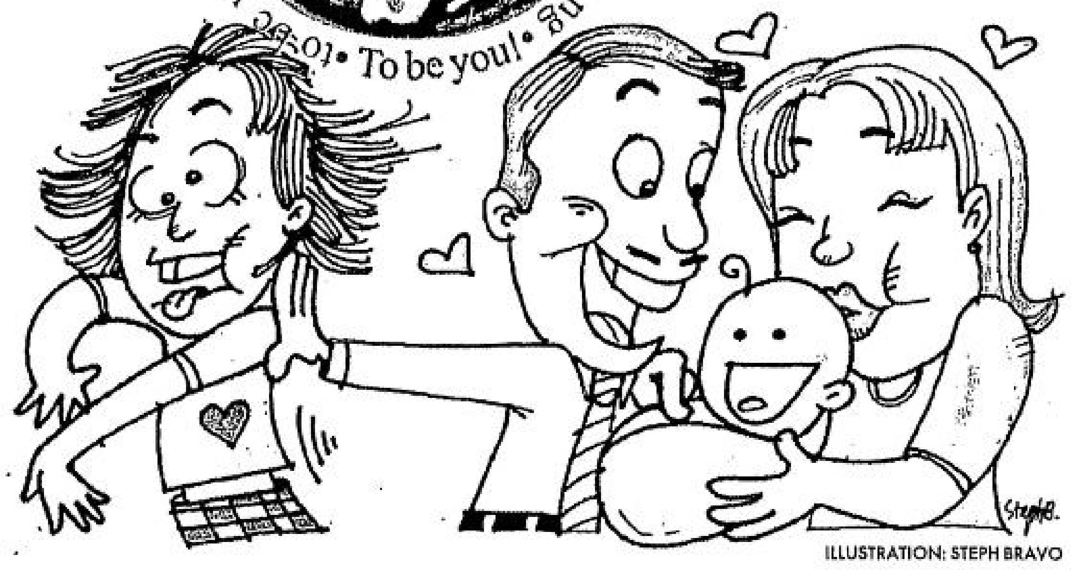


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

She thinks her parents are playing favorites

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I've been feeling left-out by my family. It all started when my younger brother was born. It is not jealousy for I love my baby brother. I don't mind that they give him more attention. It's just that, to them, I don't exist anymore! They reprimand me for little things and expect too much from me but give too little of themselves! That's not fair! They tell me that only my friends matter to me, but what do they expect? At least my friends like me the way I am. My family wants me to be someone I'm not and they don't even listen to what I want! I feel like a boarder in my very own home. Please help me. More power to you.

ANN

Whatever you say, it's still your home. You don't really hear of any other family begging to take you in, do you?

You have to understand your family. Whenever a baby gets born into a family, there are seismic changes. Your parents are, of course, busy taking care of the baby 24/7 so they aren't able to give you as much attention as they used to. Aside from that, they're dealing with financial adjustments. Maybe your mother is suffering from post-natal blues, too.

You said you don't mind about your parents attending to your brother's needs more, but I think you do. The problem is when they do pay you attention, you think they're just picking on you. Well, maybe they are, but acting immaturely and indulging in self-pity won't be of help at all. Act like a responsible, patient 13-year-old and help with the baby's care before complaining. Two babies are too many for any family to deal with.

SEP

I think I am the worst person to ask for advice about this because I am a youngest child.

I don't really know if there was a reason for my parents to stop having kids after me, the fifth, but I think it's the $2,000 rug and the *maya* bird that mysteriously developed the Tourette's syndrome.

Expectedly, there is great stress managing a "youngest" who has to compete with the growing pains of "another youngest."

To illustrate this situation, let me refer you to the experts on child psychology: big-nosed mommy and dorky daddy of Baby Blues (found in the Comic Relief section). Simply substitute your name for Hammie's.

Big-nosed mommy: "Sep is absolutely right (Dad clears his glasses). We don't try to make a special effort to scold Hammie. But there are times when..."

Dorky Daddy: "Times when she bursts like a teenager's ripe pimple. She means well, Hammie does, but like her name describes, she can cause quite a stir over nothing."

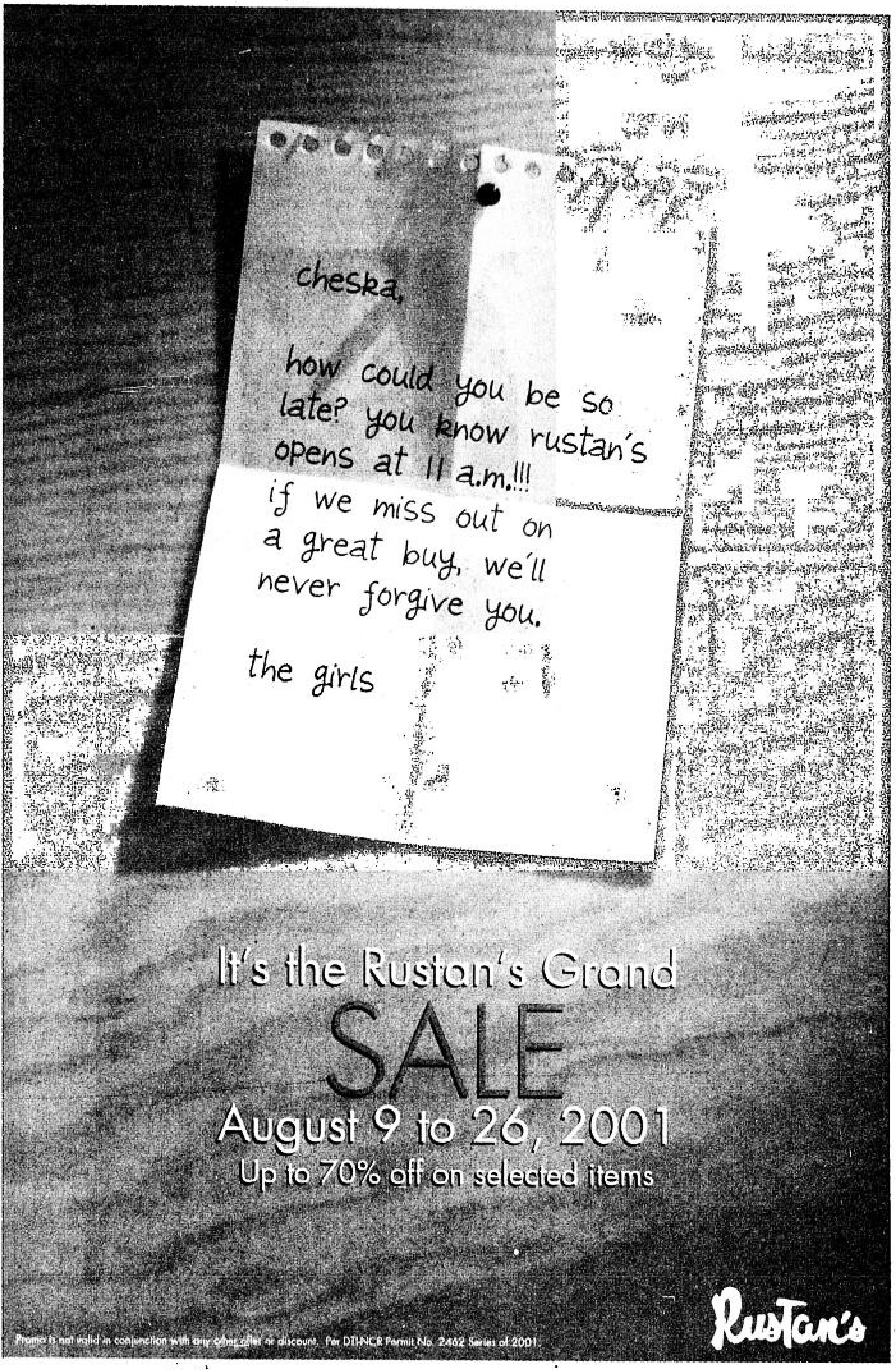
BNM: "Well, it is unfair to say 'nothing', because there are changes around here that haven't been so in two (13 for you) years, and it takes a while getting around that kind of programming."

DD: "And besides, maybe we haven't given Hammie the benefit of airing what she feels in a mature manner. Maybe we should have a talk with her, momma."

BNM: "That's true, she's only 2 but before we know it, time will fly and she'll be 13 and rebellious and writing letters to trashy tabloids and God knows what can happen from there..."

There you have it. Finally, from me to you: Don't get into drugs, stealing, prostitution and relationships with families that can't let go of political power just to get your parents' attention.

CALOY


cheska,

how could you be so late? you know rustan's opens at 11 a.m.!!! if we miss out on a great buy, we'll never forgive you.

the girls

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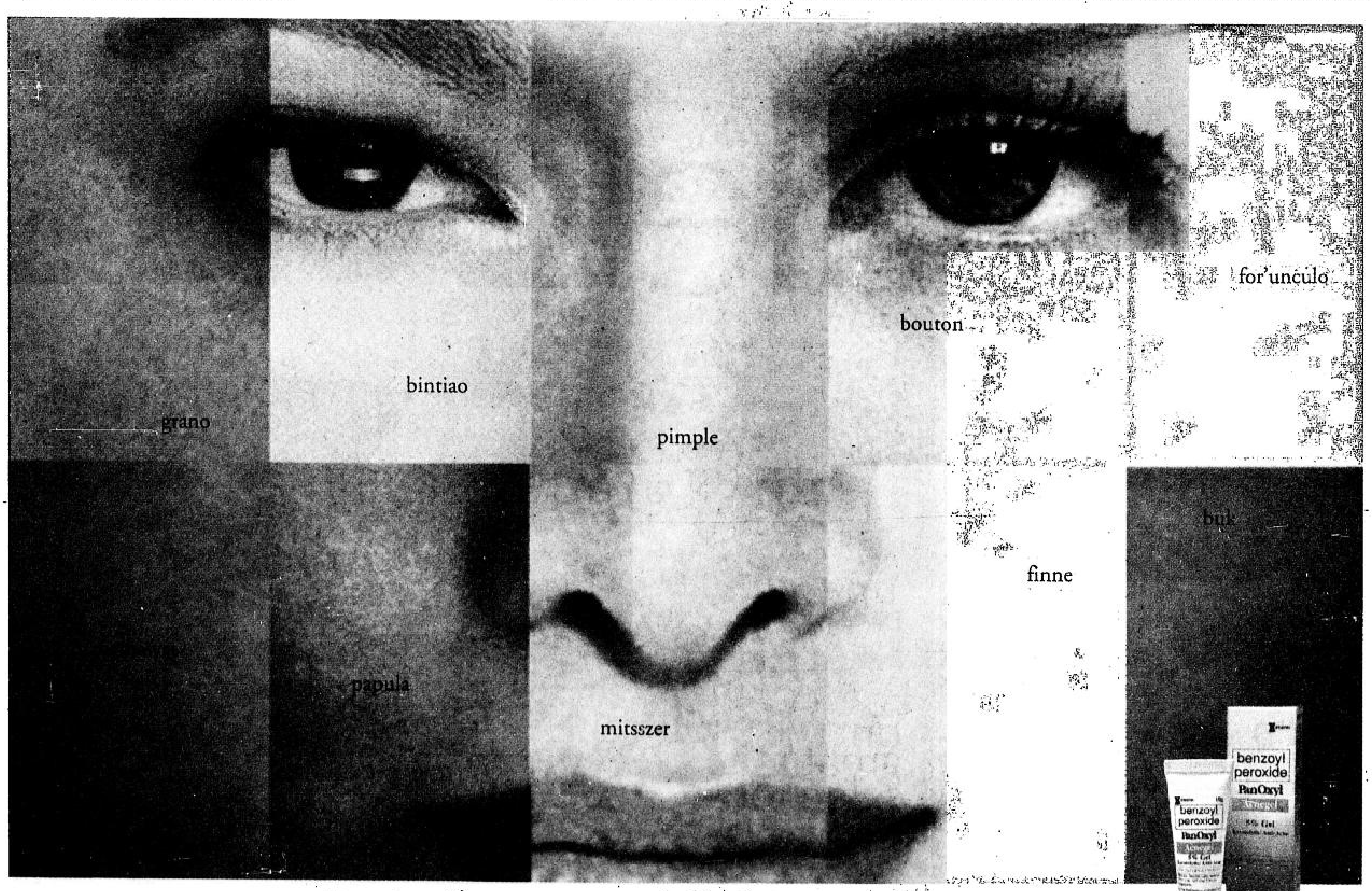

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THE 2BU! THERMOMETER

'Bridget Jones' is hot; 'Moulin Rouge,' too

"Bridget" in your cell phone. We couldn't get enough of Globe's "Bridget Jones" features. The diary excerpts, the advice tidbits—definitely worth the few measly pesos. Here's a sample: "Shopping is v.therapeutic. Just that sometimes, assistants and mirrors turn it into Scream Therapy." If you want more, send BJDIARY or BJASK plus the topic (your choice of men, shopping, sex or diet) to 2324.

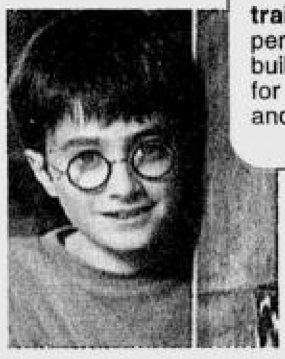
"Bridget Jones." Who hasn't fallen in love with this calorie-counting, man-obsessed heroine? Who doesn't relate to her? For once, we couldn't decide whether the book was nicer than the movie.

Renee Zellweger. This girl we absolutely love, whether as Bridget or not.

Young achievers. More and more young people are standing up to make a name for themselves in different fields—music, fashion, literature, journalism, business, sports, etc. Right on. Don't let age be a hindrance.

Ivy League look

Ben Affleck. He voluntarily entered alcohol rehab. May others follow suit.



"Harry Potter" trailers. The suspense continues to build up. Watch out for 2bU!'s Witches and Wizards Ball.

We also love Renee Zellweger and Nicole Kidman. But Mariah Carey should grow up and Tom Cruise should stop (Penelope) Cruz-ing

The endless virus-carrying e-mails. Leave our inboxes alone!

No more MCM (French cable channel). Cancelled because of nudity? What about Fashion TV?

Clueless bold stars

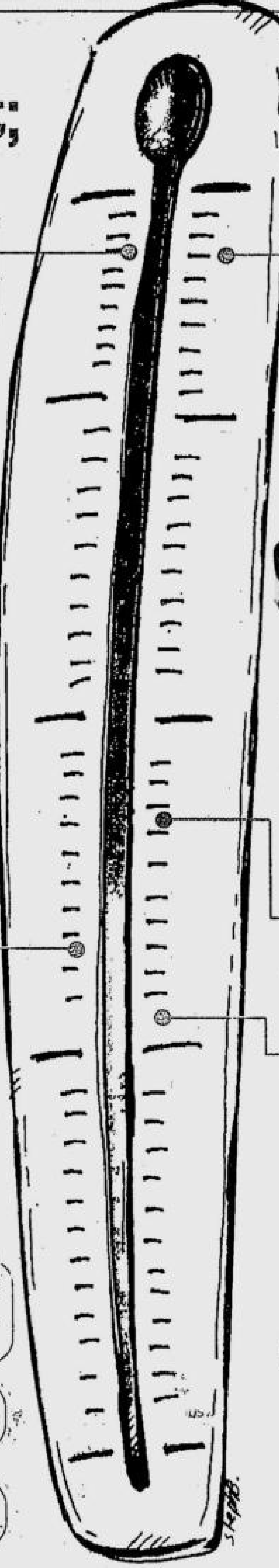
ROTC. Enough said.

Teen magazines that are losing substance and other wannabes on the planning board. Give us a break!

Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz. That was kinda fast, Tom.

Writers who think they can be Carrie Bradshaw

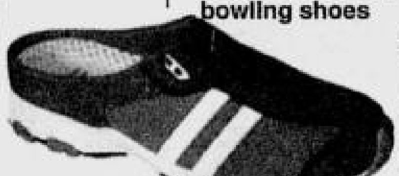
Recession at Friday's? The past weeks, we have noticed that the servings in Friday's seem to be getting smaller. Happy's Mushroom Chicken and Mushrooms should have been called Buttered Vegetables and Mushrooms with chicken nuggets on the side.



"Moulin Rouge." "It's a little bit funny this feeling inside; not one of those you can easily hide; I don't have much money, but boy, if I did, I'd buy a big house where we both could live... I know it's not much but it's the best I can do. My gift is my song and this one's for you." Enough said.

Nicole Kidman. "Finally I can wear high heels now," she told David Letterman after her breakup with Tom Cruise. If her spunk's not enough, her blockbuster movie is enough to give him a big kick in the butt.

Slip-on sneakers and bowling shoes



Young people in bookstores. Powerbook, National Bookstore, Page One, keep them coming.

"Sex & the City." No explanation necessary.

Aji Ichiban's chocolate-filled marshmallows. They are almost always out of stock. When you see them in the stores, grab them fast.

Friday's Cajun Chicken Fingers. A generous plateful of deep-fried chicken strips coated in herbs and spices, French fries and coleslaw—all for P180. We cannot last a week without it.

"Radyo." Sans the unnecessary attempts at humor right in the middle of the tense-filled parts. There is hope for Filipino movies yet.

Wave 89.1 Old favorites minus too many commercials and annoying DJs equals the perfect listening experience.

Military Look. Fatigues are out, the marching band military look is in.

Earrings. Hoops and dangly earrings are still hot—but since 12-year-olds are also wearing them now, they might just be on their way out.

Sunday Slowdown 89.9. TM gives us something to look forward to on Sunday nights—slow R&B tunes that can put anyone in a good mood.

KC Overload. Slow down on those magazine covers—we don't want people to get tired of her yet.

Dengue fever

Mariah Carey. She tries to fit into clothes that are meant for Britney and Christina Aguilera. She doesn't know when to stop. There can only be one Kylie Minogue.

Kidnapping, the Abu Sayyaf and the currency exchange rate. Just end them before things get too ugly and we turn into the planet of the apes.

Ping Lacson. Why give that power of attorney to Corpus? Give it to us and we'll give it our best shot.

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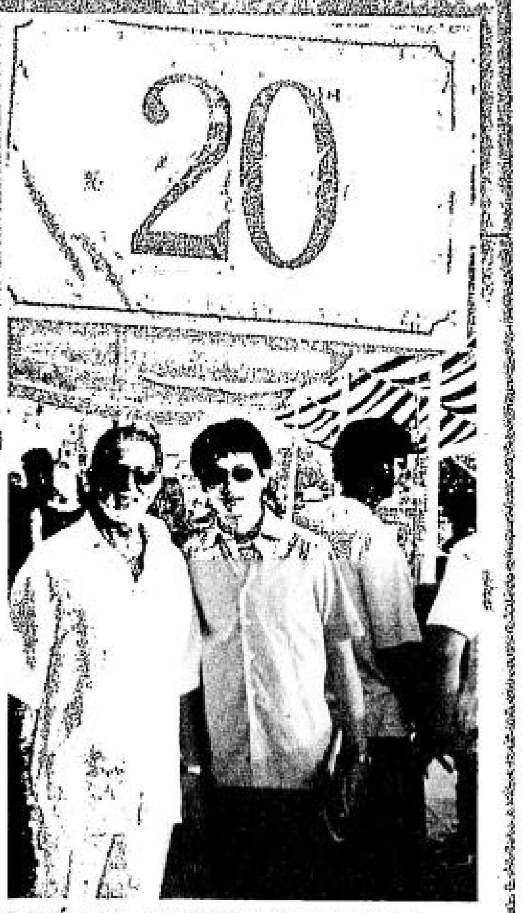
LIFESTYLE

Viva Ibiza!

BEAT THIS, BRIDGET JONES. v. sexy Playboy bunny at Es Paradis



CAFÉ DEL MAR TURNS 20. Your columnist with Café Del Mar owner Ramon Guiral celebrating 7300 sunsets and beyond

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

BOOTYLICIOUS. Spotted at the VIP lounge of Amnesia

Tim Yap

I ALWAYS get lucky when I travel. I don't know if it's positive energy or some sort of a party guardian angel (is there such a thing?) that no matter what part of the world I am, I manage to score some good points, party or no party.

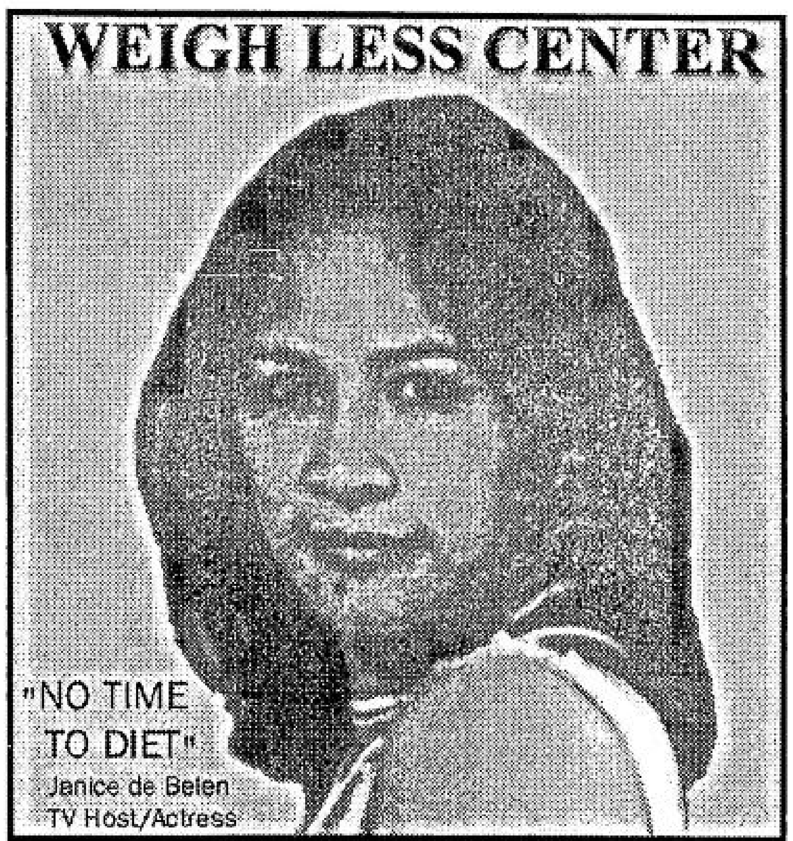
Like last year, my party feet brought me to the sun-drenched shores of Ibiza, Spain. Literally running around the airports from London to Madrid to catch the last flight out to this Balearic Island, I could not contain my excitement as two million (and increasing every European summer) partyphiles all over the world meet and match in Ibiza every summer to capture the island's spirit.

It is in Ibiza where one finds Café del Mar, which Chivas Regal at one time brought to Manila, so that Filipinos could feel the Ibiza spirit. Incidentally, Regal's "When you know" music trip out series brings partyphiles to any of five music capitals—New Orleans, Vienna, London, Jamaica and Ibiza. Just drink Chivas and you'll know. But that's another story.

Back to my trip. A precarious mix of urbanites filled the small plane (think Asian Spirit flight to Boracay), the vibe was strong with partyphiles all eager to party hard—DJs, dancers, beach bums and bohemians in random revelry. A buffed Italian guy who reminded me of Gaston in "Beauty and the Beast" was seated beside me on the plane. He kept talking to me in Italian (he could not speak English), even after I told him that the only Italians I knew were Dolce and Gabbanna.

We used sign language to communicate and he was able to get it that I wrote for a newspaper, after I showed him one. "Ah! Journaliste!" he said, sounding like someone who got past the P10,000 question in "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" When I asked him what he did for a living, he pointed to his chest, showing a diamond-encrusted

VIVA IBIZA/p. E2



WEIGH LESS CENTER

"NO TIME TO DIET"
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TV Host/Actress

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BRIT POP. Union Jill does the can-can.

THIS is what happens when you stay in Ibiza too long.

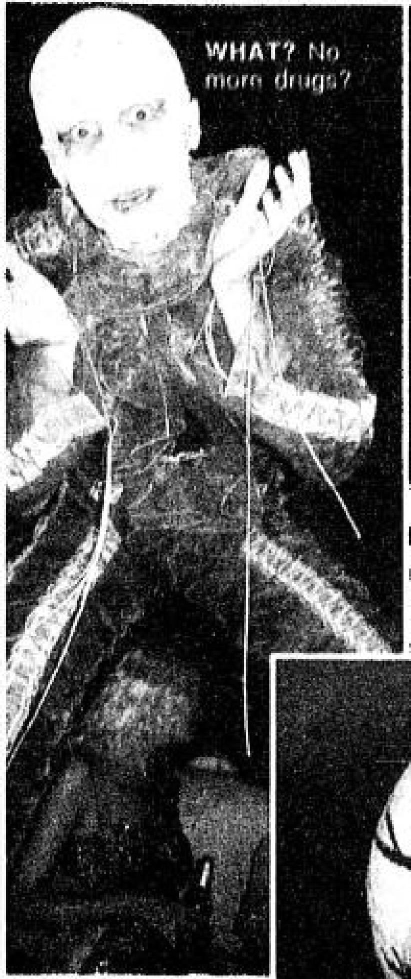
THE BALD and the beautiful chilling out

CATCH OF THE DAY. Pacha go go girl on the loose

"WHEN all else fails, I have my hands."

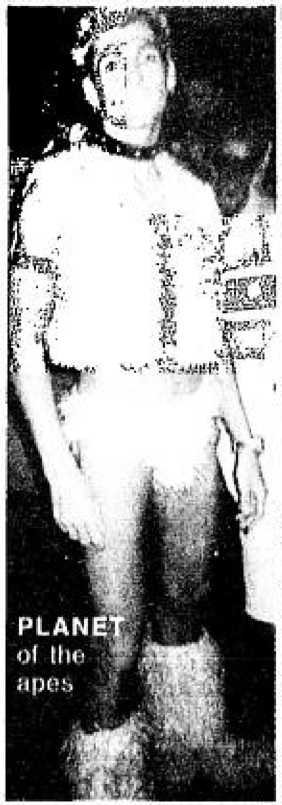
THE CRASHER kids full force at Eden

PACHA posh plate by the bar

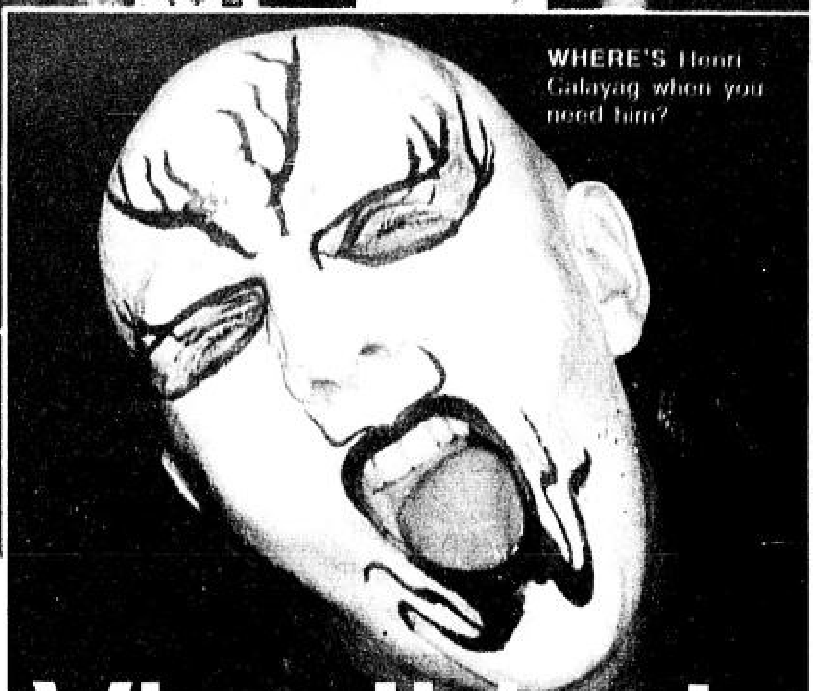

WHAT? No more drugs?

THE PERILS of sticky glitter gel

THANKS to hair, I have no hair

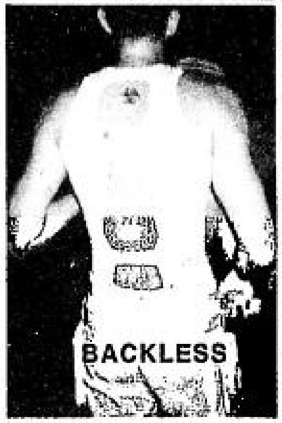

PLANET of the apes

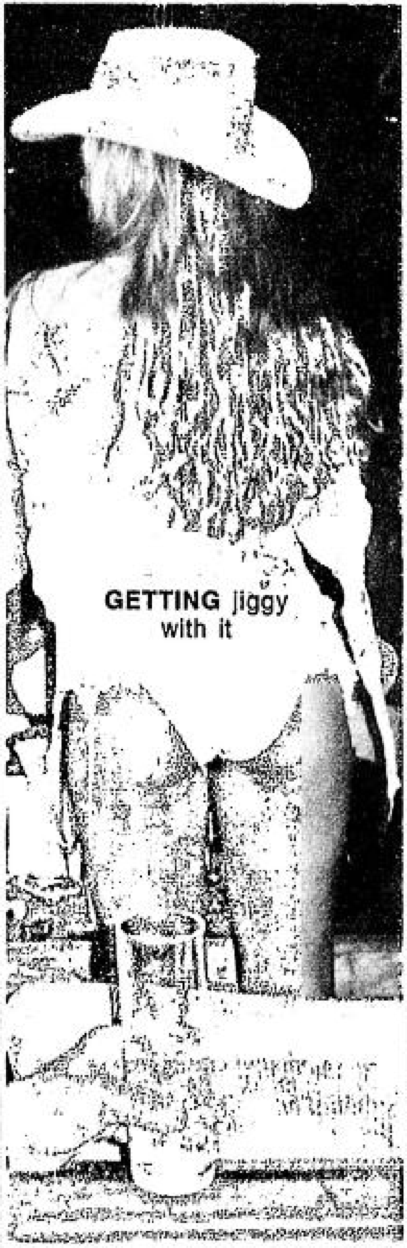
BAG imitates life. The Smurfs invade Ibiza.


WHERE'S Henri Galayag when you need him?

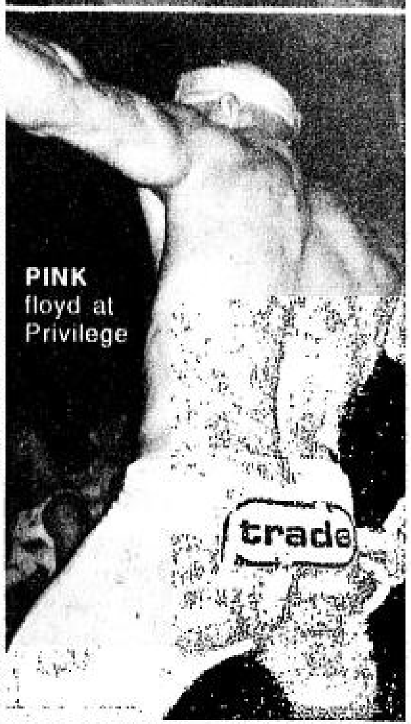
MY long-lost family

BREAKFAST at Tiffany's, Ibiza version


BACKLESS


GETTING jiggy with it

COPS in rubber


PINK floyd at Privilege

Viva Ibiza!

(From page E1)

logo, while dancing with hands in the air—"Sexy boy," it said. Decadent trip ahead, I thought to myself.

Upon landing, I made friends with this great-looking group from Amsterdam that had asked me where they could get some "stuff." All throughout my trip, I would get these "inquiries" from strangers and hippies walking around the island. "Ecstacy, ecstacy," they would whisper, looking at my direction. But I had other plans. I wanted to absorb the natural energy of the island, meaning I wanted to be sober.

In the cab on my way to the hotel, instead of your usual cheesy driver songs, the radio was pumping house beats. The driver was talking about Seb Fontaine, Tall Paul, Judge Jules and which parties to go to—whew! Talk about driver about town.

Hop

Talk about good luck, the hotel receptionist turned out to be a Filipino! Even better, we had a common friend. Then I started my hop. And hop I did. Ibiza the island has two main towns full of bars, clubs and after-hour spots—San Antonio town and the Ibiza town proper—not to mention an à la carte holiday menu of 56 beaches all over the island (though in my biased opinion, our very own Boracay is still the best).

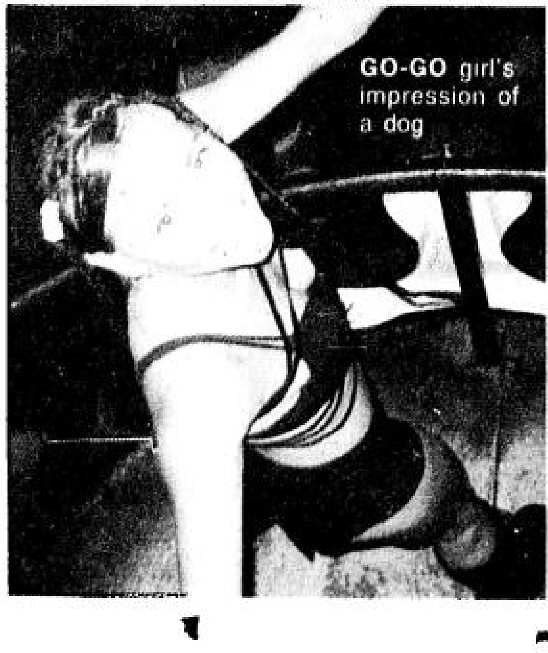
The "Big Seven" venues—Space, Eden, Es Paradis, Amnesia, Pacha, El Divino and Privilege—are musts. These cavernous, clubs are Ibiza institutions. My personal favorites are Space and Pacha. Space is still best known as an after-hours venue, with a gigantic dance floor and a "chill" terrace open at 7 a.m. till whatever time partyphiles decide to leave (or when they sober up). Pacha is lush, sophisticated and, despite its huge size, has this really intimate vibe, that's largely due to the way it's split into four music areas.

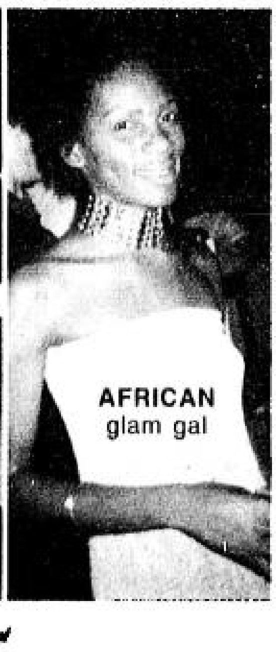
You have to rent a car to be able to crisscross all over this island of sin. Driving around, one would see so many cars overturned, with paramedics giving first aid to kids who crashed (double meaning here). More reason to stay sober—while driving.

In the two and a half weeks of my stay, I shopped at the hippie market and the town plaza, and then partied and partied each night, imbibing a sensory overload of sights, sounds and so much more. From superstar DJs to ultra-glam theme nights, Ibiza has anything and everything on the party menu that you could ever wish for.

Want a club the size of a football field? Wanna see and experience men and women in different states of undress? Trannies, go go guys and gals? Foam party or water party? Paul Oakenfold? Boy George? Or some unknown DJ playing at a beach chill out? Sex show or circus? Want to party at 10 a.m.? Ibiza has it all, in one pulsating package. The list is endless.

On these pages, find out what draws partyphiles the world over to this global party spot.

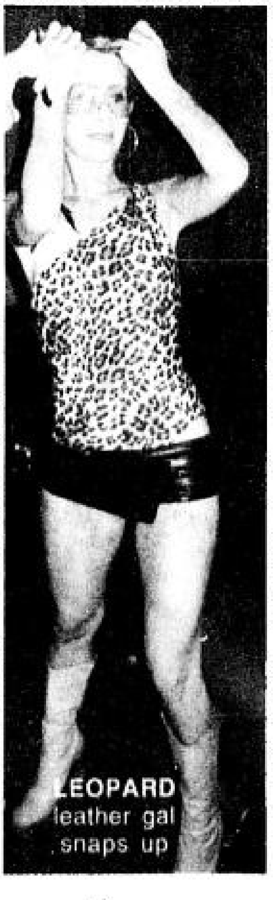

GO-GO girl's impression of a dog


AFRICAN glam gal

JADE ebony glow

DESTINY'S child on the go

RED ROOM party trio


LEOPARD leather gal snaps up

BABY gets a full bodied tan

At home in Chicago

By Anthon Garcia

ALL over the world, cities lay claim to greatness with the beauty of their architecture or the richness of their traditions—each one with a dictum that immortalizes it in history.

Paris is the City of Lights and Venice is the City of Romance; New York is the City that Never Sleeps and Manila is the Ever Noble and Loyal City.

Naturally, different people are drawn to different cities for various reasons. Vincent Van Gogh was of Dutch origin and yet he loved Paris more; so much, in fact, that it was where he drew inspiration for some of his most compelling masterpieces. Likewise, Ernest Hemingway gravitated toward Cuba from where he wrote many of his most poignant stories.

Closer to home, a friend of mine has lived in France and Belgium practically all her life. "It's beautiful and it's great living in Paris and Brussels," she says.

Then, of course, there are people who will live and die not only for their countries but for their cities as well. Attend a soccer match in Milan or Manchester United and you will know what I mean. In Africa, as in Europe and South America, cities have become friends and foes because of sports, soccer in particular.

On a recent trip to the East Coast of the United States, I fell in love with a city that once had a reputation for being a "mudhole in the prairie." Think Al Capone and you will get a clearer picture. But, as is with every American city, this windblown metropolis reinvented itself many times to become one of the more famous cities in the world. Today, it has become a hub for modern transportation and industry. Welcome to the Windy City, the City of Chicago.

I had actually stayed in the suburbs, south of Chicago, and did not expect to be smitten by its charm until my friends gave a tour. It was rather late when my friends dropped by the hotel to pick me up for a dinner date. Sassy, a dear friend,whom I was seeing for the first time in the US, drove a couple of miles through weekend traffic just to pick me up. I was, of course, more than happy to see her right in front of my hotel room, some time after I called. She came with Don, whom I was excited to see again as well, although I saw him in L.A. only a couple of weeks back.

Coming toward the city from the south I had a spectacular view of Chicago at night. Cruising inbound along the freeway, we saw why Chicago took pride in its skyline. It was spectacular; shimmering lights of red, green, blue and gold outline the city's towering skyscrapers.

I was told that the Sears Towers is the tallest freestanding building in the world, the tallest building being the Petronas Twin Towers in Malaysia. But no matter, the Sears Towers, along with the John Hancock Center not far away, are architectural masterpieces that have immensely redefined, literally and figuratively, Chicago's cityscape.

It was a breathtaking drive, to say the least. Not so much for the car, but because of what it felt like going to the city. If some have talked about how exhilarating it was for them to get inside the Forbidden City or to see the wonders of the Great Pyramids, then that was what it felt like when I was in downtown Chicago. "I feel so at home here," I told my friends, still gushing at the sights. Don't get me wrong, but there is no mystery nor ancient puzzle to be solved in Chicago. It's just a wonderful place waiting to be appreciated.

A taste of China

First stop: China Bistro. There's something about Chinese food that Americans have come to love. And Chicago is also famous for great-tasting food. So we decided to go to a "familiar territory," at least for tonight—a little blending of Asian and American cuisine.

It was probably foolish of me to expect something different. Chinese restaurants, in most respects, are basically the same. But this is not to say that they offer no variety. What this only means is that I sort of felt not unfamiliar that I wouldn't know what to order.

China Bistro didn't disappoint us. Everything, from the Chicken Lemon Salad to the beef entrée that I had, was excellent, not to mention the service. The wonderful dining experience that my friends and I had was a sign of things to come for my visit.

And then a 'Dutch treat'

A former colleague from ABS-CBN Foundation was here previously and she had wanted very much to have her picture taken with the Holland tulips that grew in the mini-gardens that lined the city's sidewalks. She was here May last year at the onset of summer and was ripe for a "Dutch treat." Unfortunately, Chicago weather could be so unpredictable that for some reason she didn't get what she came for.

And so I was probably in luck that when I came, the flowers were in full bloom, and what a sight it was indeed. In bright yellow and orange, the flowers made the city just all the more lovely. Funny, because a week later when I left, the tulips were gone. But the memory of this wonderful Dutch treat remains.

The Chicago Art Institute

The following morning, I had planned on going to the Navy Pier to attend an art exhibit, not just by one artist or museum, but by several artists and museums, both classical and contemporary. Unfortunately, I enjoyed so much walking along the shorelines of Lake Michigan that I didn't have time to go to the exhibit; notwithstanding the fact that the exhibit, more precisely, the exposition was the biggest of its kind in the world. I actually spent so much time waiting for the chance to see Oprah, who frequents the park to walk or jog. But Lake Michigan offered such a refreshing experience that I hadn't noticed it was already time to prepare for Eileen Ford's party to which we were invited that night.

As we walked to the bus stop, we passed by The Chicago Art Institute, the city's stunning response to New York's Museum of Metropolitan Art and home to a magnificent collection of art pieces that notably includes works by great French Impressionists as Monet ("Grainstacks") and Renoir ("Two Sisters").

I would have loved to stay to view the more interesting masterpieces, but the museum was about to close. But it seemed enough for now that I knew there was a museum in the US that could rival New York's MOMA.

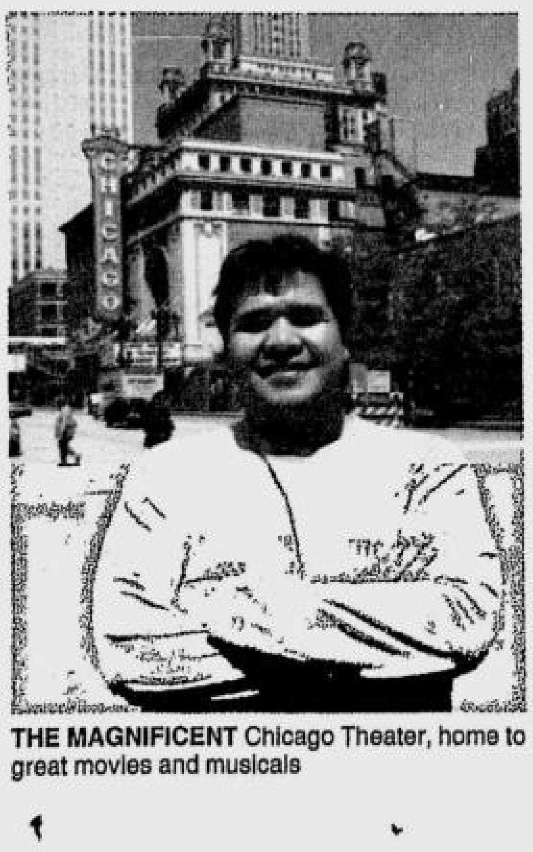
Besides, Don, one of the very first of my friends to migrate to America out of frustration with what was going on with his life in the Philippines, insisted that we buy clothes for the night's gig. So we caught the next bus and stopped by Nordstrom's on Oak Street, Chicago's version of the Champs Elysées. Here, too, I found the flagship stores of Polo and Banana Republic.

Don knew exactly what he wanted, which brought him to the Armani shop. We actually went to the Hugo Boss shop but we didn't find anything to our particular liking (read: We couldn't afford any!). In Armani, there was a huge sale—that was what Don wanted—that he had such a fun time shopping for clothes to wear for the party, as if he were to walk the ramp just like many of the models invited to party with Ms Ford. I tried on a few clothes myself, but again there was nothing that suited my taste (read: Not only could I not afford any; nothing seemed to fit!). For me, it was the only downtime I had in Chicago—to see myself in the mirror trying to look good in an XL Armani sweatshirt that still wouldn't fit.

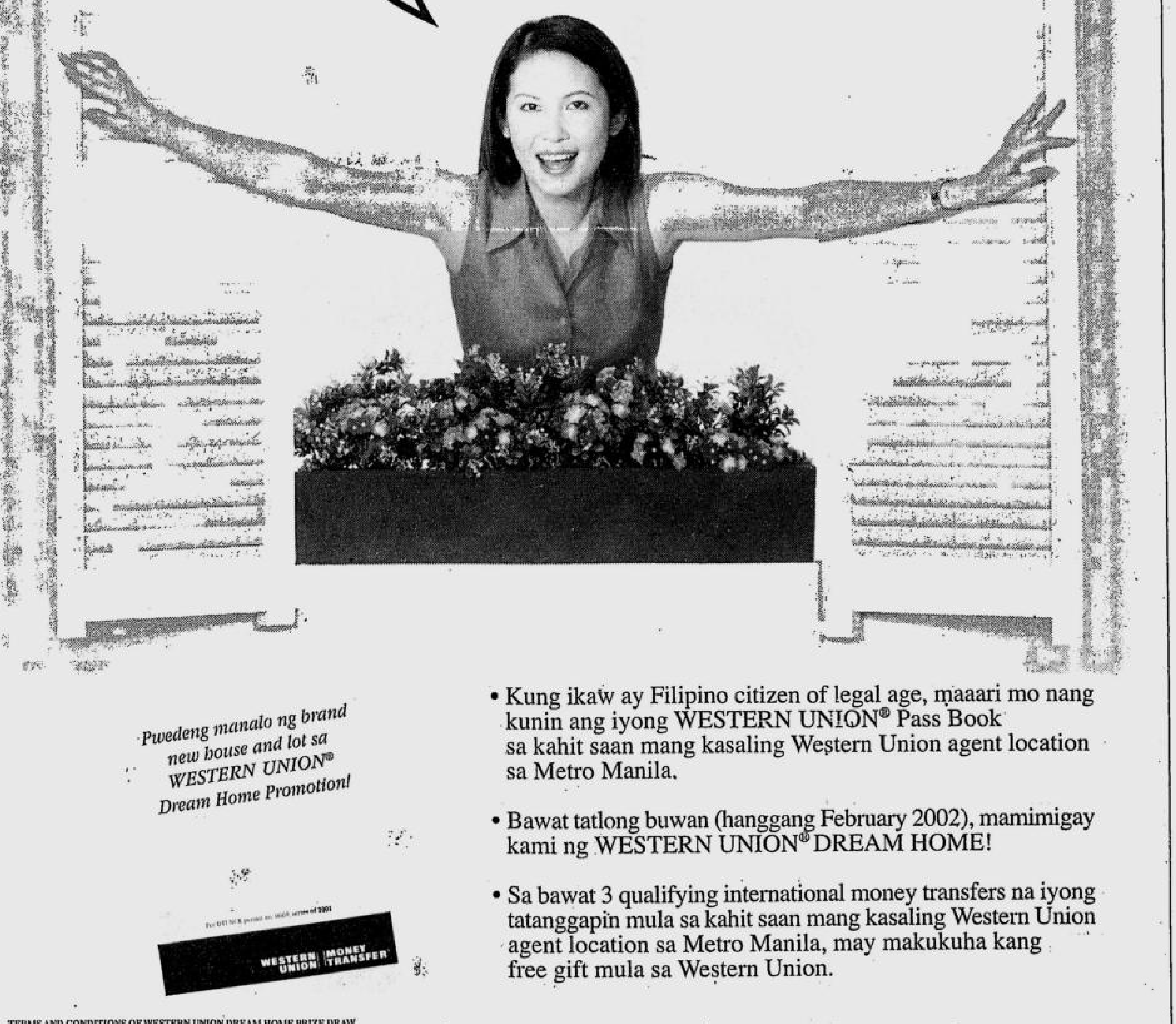
But, I told myself, my old reliable Mossimo polo shirt was just as good. And better, because it fit. And so I said, "I'm all set." In the meantime, my friend just charged a couple of a hundred dollars to his card for some nice-looking shirts and pants. It was party time.

AT HOME/ p.E8

PEOPLE OF CHICAGO. Couch features collage of people shots.



THE MAGNIFICENT Chicago Theater, home to great movies and musicals



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW

1. Ang Raffle Promo ay magsisimula sa May 30, 2001 hanggang March 18, 2002. Mga international money transfer na ipinadala at natanggap lamang ng sinumang Filipino citizens of legal age mula sa mga kasaling Western Union agent locations sa Metro Manila ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
2. Sa unang pagtanggap ng iyong pamilya o kaibigan ng international money transfer na galing sa iyo sa kahit saan mang participating Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila ay mabibigyan sila ng Western Union Pass Book at malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
3. Sa bawat pagtanggap nila ng international money transfer ay malalagyan ng isang sticker ang kanilang Passbook.
4. Kapag may tatlong stickers na ang kanilang Passbook at na-validate na ito ng participating WU agent sa Metro Manila ay papupuntahin sila sa fulfillment centers para ibigay ang kanilang Pass Book.
5. Sa fulfillment center ay pupunitin ang kalahating pahina ng passbook na may tatlong stickers at ang booklet na may raffle coupon ay isosoli sa customers kasama ng free gift na kanilang pipiliin (caps, K-wallets, T-shirts o phonebook).
6. Puwede na silang sumali sa Western Union DREAM HOME PRIZE DRAW. Mga kumpletong certificate lamang ng iyong qualified receiver (tatlong validated stickers kasama ang kanilang pangalan, address, telephone number, at signature), ang puwedeng isali sa prize draw.
7. Di maaaring ilipat ang mga stickers na natanggap ng iyong receiver (halimbawa: hindi tatanggapin ng fulfillment centers ang tatlong certificates na may tig-iisang sticker lamang).
8. Makakakuha lamang ng free gift pag nakakumpleto ng tatlong stickers sa Western Union Passbook.
9. Para makasali sa prize draw, dapat maghulog ang iyong receiver ng validated certificate sa drop box sa fulfillment center isang linggo bago ang scheduled na prize draw.
10. Kapag ito ay di umabot, ang validated certificate ay isasali sa susunod na raffle draw.
11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:

    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    November 23, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
    March 18, 2002 (12: 00 ng tanghali)
12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
13. Ang mananalo sa bawat DREAM HOME prize draw ay siyang dapat na nakapangalang receiver sa tatlong qualifying international money transfers na isinali.
14. Ipaaalam ng Western Union sa DREAM HOME winner ang kanyang pagkapanalo sa loob ng 48 hours ng prize draw sa pamamagitan ng Registered Mail.
15. Ang mga hindi mananalong entries ay isasama sa mga susunod na draws.
16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SFW-D (Constructor: BANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
19. Isang house and lot lamang ang ipamimigay sa bawat draw at wala ng ibang premyong ibibigay maliban dito.
20. Ang WESTERN UNION ang magbabayad ng 20% tax sa mga premyong hihigit ng P10,000.
21. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay limitado lamang sa mga tatanggap (na Filipino citizens of legal age) ng international money transfer sa kahit saan mang kasaling Western Union agent location sa Metro Manila mula May 30, 2001 hanggang March 11, 2002.
22. Mga premyo na hindi kinuha ng nanalo sa WESTERN UNION Dream Home Prize Draw ay ibabalik sa Western Union na may pahintulot at approval ng DTI.

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For registration and inquiries, call 532-6395 or e-mail cbcm@edsamail.com.ph.

Reiki is a Japanese word for cosmic or universal life-force energy. It is an ancient form of Tibetan healing rediscovered in the late 1899 by Dr. Usul of Japan.

In Manila today, Karuna Reiki Master Charu Kumar Gupta is back and will share with us the benefits and rewards of Reiki healing. Charu has earned her first and second degree courses in Reiki from Meera Kotak in Banglore-India. She then subsequently learnt her mastership and advanced Karuna Reiki Mastership from Meera Kotak at Mumbai-India. She got a lot of guidance, information and enlightenment from I.S. Singhal with whom she started taking classes in Delhi, India. Charu is back by popular demand in the Philippines on another limited engagement to propagate Reiki.

Evangelical group holds concert

WINDSONG, an evangelical music group, continues its concert series with a performance on Aug. 17, 8 p.m., at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship at Ruby corner, Garnet Streets, Ortigas Center (behind Robinsons Galleria).

Composed of former UP College of Music students who were into Bible studies, Windsong shares the gospel of Christ nationwide in a unique and entertaining way—through music. The group has also ministered to evangelical Christian churches in Korea, Indonesia, Canada and Grenada in the Caribbean.

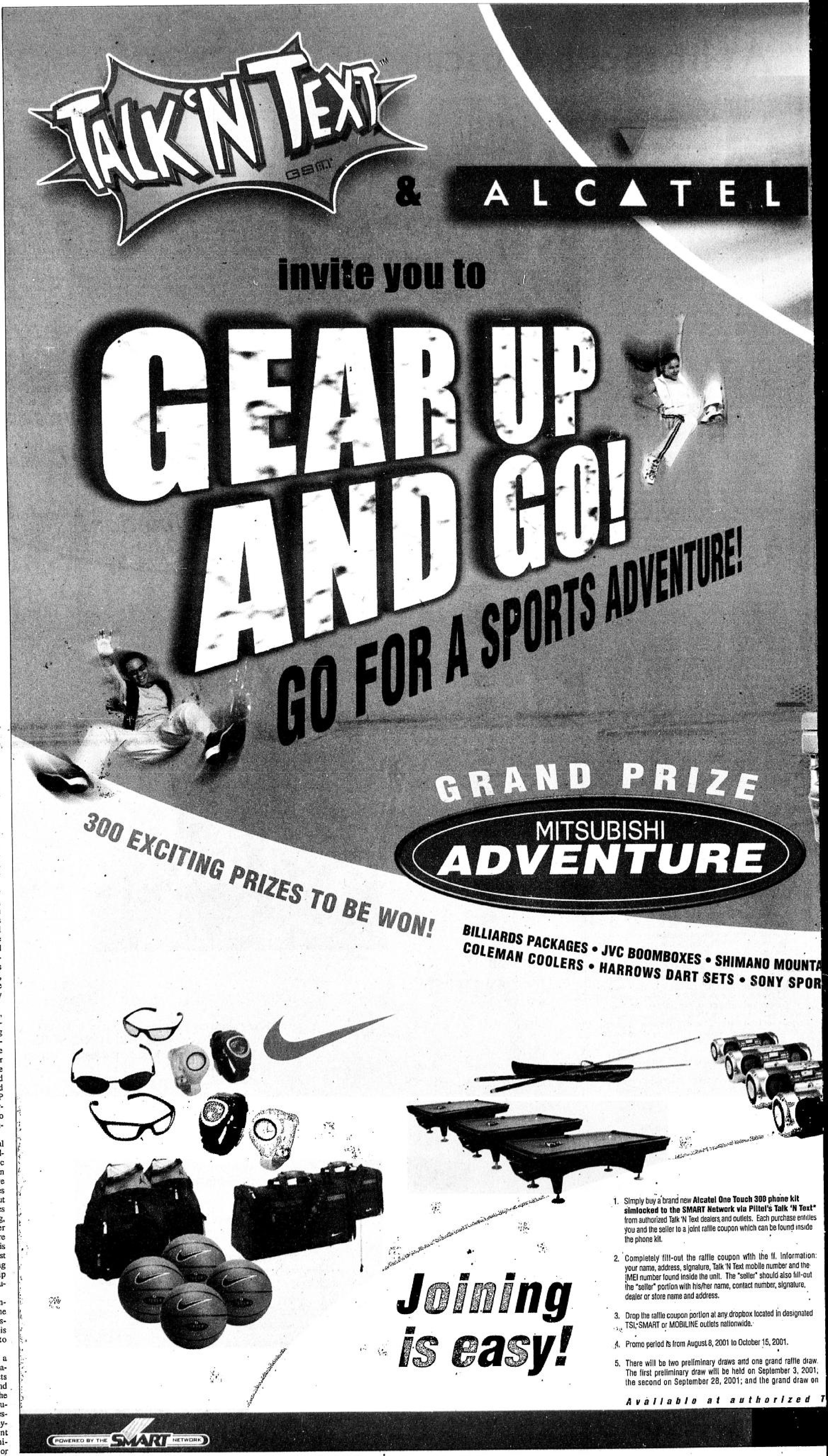
Last year, they launched their first album, "Wind Songs the Album Concert," which was coproduced by Prof. Joel Navarro, conductor of the Ateneo Glee Club, and Lyn Valdes-Fabella. Featured musical arrangers are Navarro, Mel Villena, Egay Gonzalez, Eudenice Palaruan and Iggy Alfonso.

Formed in 1985, Windsong, then a 15-member group, first sang at a campus concert sponsored by the Philippine Campus Crusade for Christ. Soon they were giving concerts in and around the colleges and dormitories inside the UP Diliman campus. Afterward they were invited to other schools and campuses as well.

Most of the original members, among them Edward Granadosin, Marc Lopez, Daniel de Tablan and Sweet Plantado, have since moved on. New faces have come and gone, but despite the many changes in membership, Windsong, now a seven-member group, continues to share the Gospel. Their vision is to have the Body of Christ passionately glorifying God in true worship through life-changing music.

Proceeds of the concerts go directly to the furtherance of the Gospel and to making this ministry available to more people.

Windsong CMMI, a nonstock, nonprofit organization, also conducts workshops, seminars and music camps around the country. Their Music Studio offers individual lessons in voice, piano, keyboard accompaniment and guitar accompaniment. Call 433-0558 or 921-9286.



TALK 'N TEXT GSM & ALCATEL

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1. Simply buy a brand new **Alcatel One Touch 300 phone kit simlocked to the SMART Network via Piltel's Talk 'N Text** from authorized Talk 'N Text dealers and outlets. Each purchase entitles you and the seller to a joint raffle coupon which can be found inside the phone kit.
2. Completely fill-out the raffle coupon with the ff. information: your name, address, signature, Talk 'N Text mobile number and the IMEI number found inside the unit. The "seller" should also fill-out the "seller" portion with his/her name, contact number, signature, dealer or store name and address.
3. Drop the raffle coupon portion at any dropbox located in designated TSI, SMART or MOBILINE outlets nationwide.
4. Promo period is from August 8, 2001 to October 15, 2001.
5. There will be two preliminary draws and one grand raffle draw. The first preliminary draw will be held on September 3, 2001; the second on September 28, 2001; and the grand draw on

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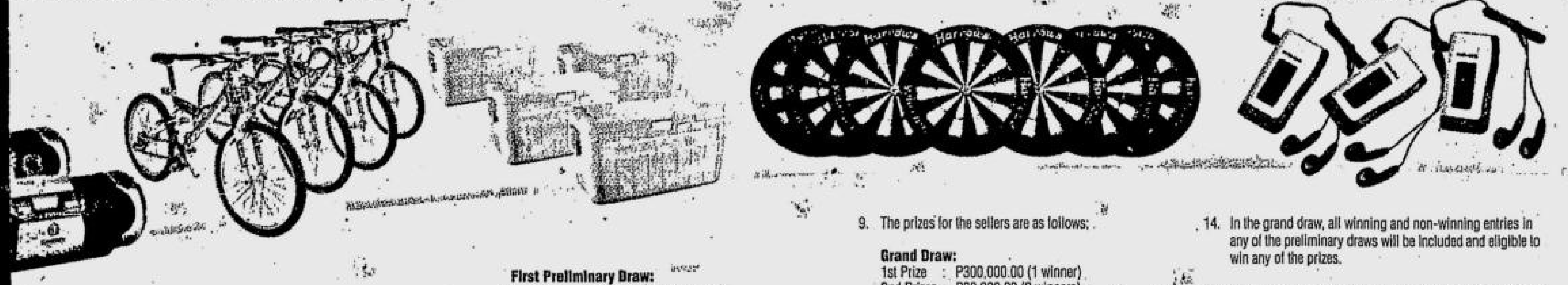
IN BIKES • NIKE WATCHES • NIKE EYEWEAR • NIKE GEAR
TS RADIOS • TOBY'S BILLIARDS STICKS WITH CASE

Actual appearance of prizes may vary from photos



October 18, 2001. All draws will be held at 3PM on the said dates at the 27/F, Smart Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. A DTI representative will be present during all the draws.

6. Deadline for submission of entries will be the closing of store hours on the following dates:
For the 1st preliminary draw: August 30, 2001
For the 2nd preliminary draw: September 23, 2001
For the grand draw: October 15, 2001

7. Both the buyer and seller get a chance to win prizes.

8. The prizes for the buyers are as follows:

Grand Draw:
1st Prize : One (1) MITSUBISHI Adventure Super Sport.
2nd Prizes : Two (2) Billiards Packages
3rd Prizes : Three (3) JVC Boomboxes
4th Prizes : Three (3) SHIMANO Mountain Bikes
5th Prizes : Four (4) COLEMAN Coolers
6th Prizes : Twenty (20) NIKE Steel Agent Super Watches
7th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE TW9-Tiger Woods Eyewear
8th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Uniballer Bags with Leather Basketball
9th Prizes : Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
10th Prizes : Fifty (50) SONY Sports Radios
11th Prizes : Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

First Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : One (1) Billiards Package
2nd Prize : One (1) JVC Boombox
3rd Prize : One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike
4th Prizes : Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers
5th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Triax Junior Watches
6th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eyewear
7th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Duffel Bags
8th Prizes : Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
9th Prizes : Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios
10th Prizes : Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

Second Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : One (1) Billiards Package
2nd Prize : One (1) JVC Boombox
3rd Prize : One (1) SHIMANO Mountain Bike
4th Prizes : Three (3) COLEMAN Coolers
5th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Triax Junior Watches
6th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Interchangeable Eyewear
7th Prizes : Ten (10) NIKE Duffel Bags
8th Prizes : Five (5) HARROWS Dart Sets
9th Prizes : Twenty-five (25) SONY Sports Radios
10th Prizes : Twenty (20) TOBY'S Billiards Cue Sticks with case

9. The prizes for the sellers are as follows:

Grand Draw:
1st Prize : P300,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes : P30,000.00 (2 winners)
3rd Prizes : P3,000.00 (125 winners)

First Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : P30,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes : P3,000.00 (85 winners)

Second Preliminary Draw:
1st Prize : P30,000.00 (1 winner)
2nd Prizes : P3,000.00 (85 winners)

10. The names of the raffle draw winners will be announced via major national newspapers. Winners will also be notified via registered mail and text message to the Talk 'N Text mobile phone number listed on the raffle coupon.

11. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

12. All prizes are tax-free. Alcatel Philippines, Inc. will shoulder the 20% tax of prizes with values exceeding P10,000.00

13. During the preliminary draws, each person can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value. Winners of the first preliminary draw will be excluded from the second draw. However, non-winners will be eligible to join.

14. In the grand draw, all winning and non-winning entries in any of the preliminary draws will be included and eligible to win any of the prizes.

15. Prizes can be redeemed within sixty (60) calendar days from announcement and receipt of notification. Winners can claim their prizes from the nearest branch of Acabar Marketing International stated on the registered mail upon presentation of the following: the winning raffle stub, valid ID with picture and signature (e.g. driver's license, passport, school ID, company ID), Alcatel OT300 unit and Talk 'N Text SIM Card that match those indicated in the raffle coupon. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.

16. The winner of the Mitsubishi Adventure can get the original certificate which will be awarded at the nearest Mitsubishi dealer. The winner will shoulder the cost of LTO registration and other documentation.

17. Employees of Alcatel Philippines, Inc., including their manpower and personnel; PILTEL/SMART/TSI and their advertising and merchandising agencies, as well as participating outlets and dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle intended for buyers.

See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2360, Series of 2001

alk 'N Text dealers and outlets nationwide

Yan ang galing... without overspending!

For inquiries call the Piltel Customer Hotline (02) 848-8888, (032) 232-3200 (Visayas/Mindanao) or 15003 from your Talk 'N Text cellphone.

STI celebrates 18th anniversary

STI, one of the world's largest information technology networks, will celebrate its 18th anniversary with a series of activities from Aug. 22-25.

The anniversary will kick off with a two-day interscholastic IT competition, a website design contest, an impromptu speech contest and short storytelling contest on Aug. 22-23.

On the 24th, STI bands will compete in the "Battle of the Bands" while several theater groups outperform each other in "Teatro STI," which will be held in the Makati Coliseum. True Faith performs as guest.

Capping the four-day celebration is the "Talent Search 2001," which will feature a Hataw Sayaw portion, a Faculty Ballroom Dancing Competition and a Pop Song Duet Singing Contest. The activities will end with the crowning of the Mr. and Miss STI 2001.

A concert billed "sti@eighteen.more" will cap that day's activities. Today's hottest band, Freestyle, will lead an array of stars with special guests Asia's songbird Regine Velasquez and Roselle Naval.

Founded on Aug. 21, 1983, STI has now over 100 colleges and education centers spread out in the archipelago. It furthered its reach when it partnered with the Global University Alliance (GUA), a network of 10 fully accredited international universities that links all parts of the world with accessible, fully credited on-line educational programs.

Shrek-citing fun at the malls

SHREK, the delightful green ogre from the film of the same title, swamps Storyland with shrek-tacular, fun-filled activities.

Guests at the country's most exciting indoor theme park can have a chance to watch the Storyland advance screening of the much-awaited movie at the SM Cinemas. Park guests who purchase Ride-All-You-Can Wrist Tags (the first 900 at Storyland SM Southmall and the first 700 at Storyland SM City Fairview) or buy a minimum of P180 worth of Storyland souvenir items (the first 100 at Southmall and the first 50 at Fairview) get a free movie ticket for "Shrek's" advanced screenings. These are scheduled at the SM Southmall Cinema on Aug. 18, 10:30 a.m., and at the SM City Fairview Cinema on Aug. 19, 10:30 a.m. The promo is ongoing until Aug. 17.

The best part is that the fun doesn't stop there. The movie ticket also serves as an entry pass to the "Shrek Party @ Storyland," which happens right after the advanced screening.

Party with "Shrek @ Storyland" and get to meet him up close during the "Meet 'n' Greet" sessions. Kids can likewise join in fun-tactic party activities like the "Fairy Tale Costume Party," storytelling sessions, face painting, treasure hunt and a mural painting contest. A video will also show film clips and the making of "Shrek."

There's more shrek-citing fun ahead with the "Storytelling Series and Treasure Hunt" at Storyland SM Southmall on Aug. 26, Sept. 2 and 9; and at Storyland SM City Fairview on Aug. 27, Sept. 2 and 9.

Enjoy a shrek-tacular adventure at Storyland, located at UG/F SM Southmall and 3/L SM City Fairview.

Art and currency on BPI's 150th year

BY RONI TAPIA–MERK

FOR its 150th anniversary celebration, the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is sharing its rich history as well as its art patronage with the public in two exhibits at the Ayala Museum from August 15 to 31.

A Brief History of Philippine Currency puts on show old bank notes and coins and is held in cooperation with the Philippine Numismatics and Antiquarian Society. At the center of this exhibit is the *Pesos Fuertes* the first currency to be issued in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. The *Pesos Fuertes* was issued by the *Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II* which would later be known as BPI.

A Glimpse of the Best is happening simultaneously also at the Ayala Museum and showcases early Philippine prints and art works by Juan Luna and national artists Fernando Amorsolo, Napoleon Abueva, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Vicente Manansala, Hernando "HR" Ocampo, Cesar Legaspi, Arturo Luz, Ang Kiu Kok, and J. Elizalde Navarro from the BPI art collection.

These BPI exhibitions give us a concrete and tangible glimpse into those events in Philippine history that the Bank has stood witness to and often participated in as an institution.

BPI's extraordinary story began on August 1, 1851 when Queen Isabel II of Spain decreed that a bank be established in the Philippines. This was the *Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II* the precursor of BPI.

Through the years, the bank would change names. First by dropping the name of its royal patron when it became the *Banco Español Filipino* in 1869 and later to its current, Bank of the Philippine Islands.

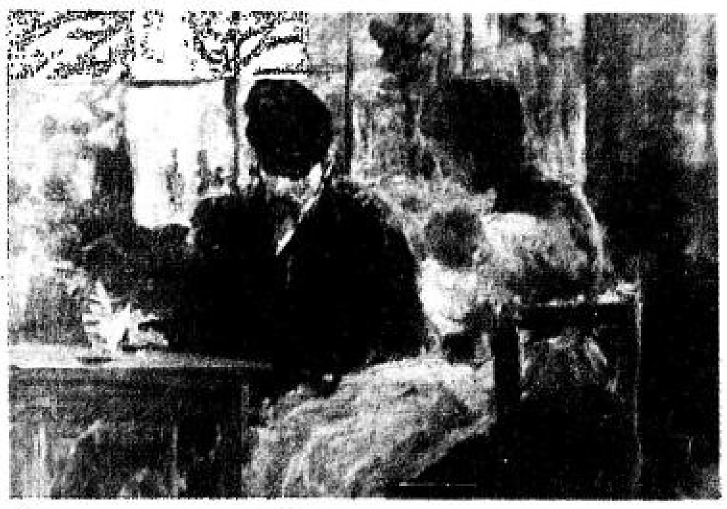
As the first bank in the Philippines, BPI issued the first paper money in the country. BPI called the paper money *Pesos Fuertes* or strong pesos. It bore the likeness of Queen Isabel II and true to its name, was redeemable in Mexican gold and silver coins—inarguably the strongest currency at the time. It is this paper money that takes pride of place as the centerpiece of the currency and coins exhibit which also includes a complete collection of coins and medals that were minted at important milestones in our national past.

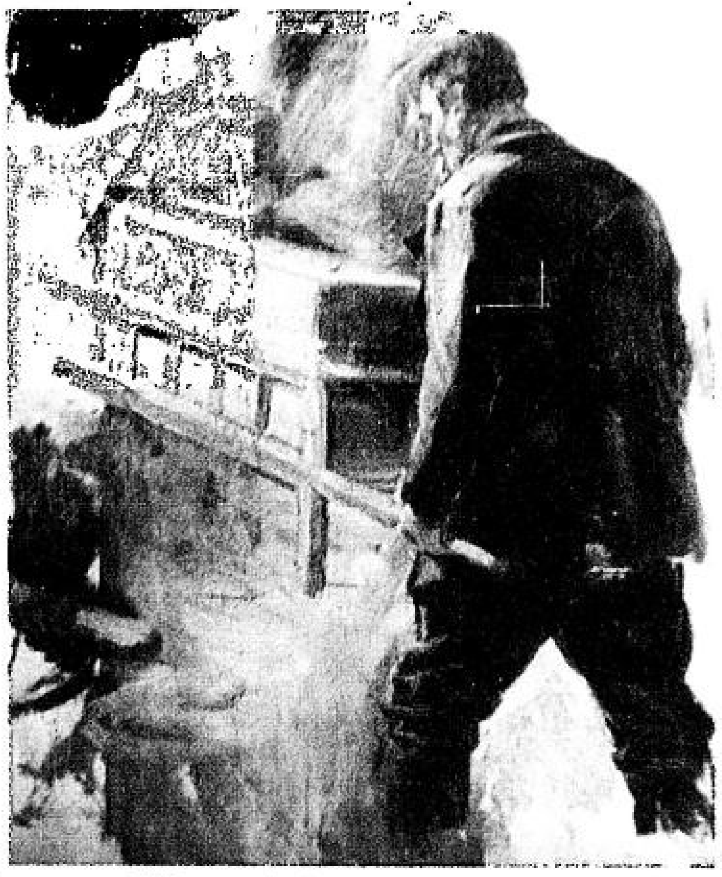
As the pages of history unfold, our bank notes and coins serve to mirror important events. As a case in point, the period of hardship experienced under the Japanese during World War II is clearly reflected and in the worthless currency printed at the time.

Old bank notes and coins are valued according to their rarity. The price of a coin in the open market—collectors trade with or buy from one another all the time—has nothing to do with its intrinsic value. Its gold and silver content is nothing compared to the price it can command in its original state.

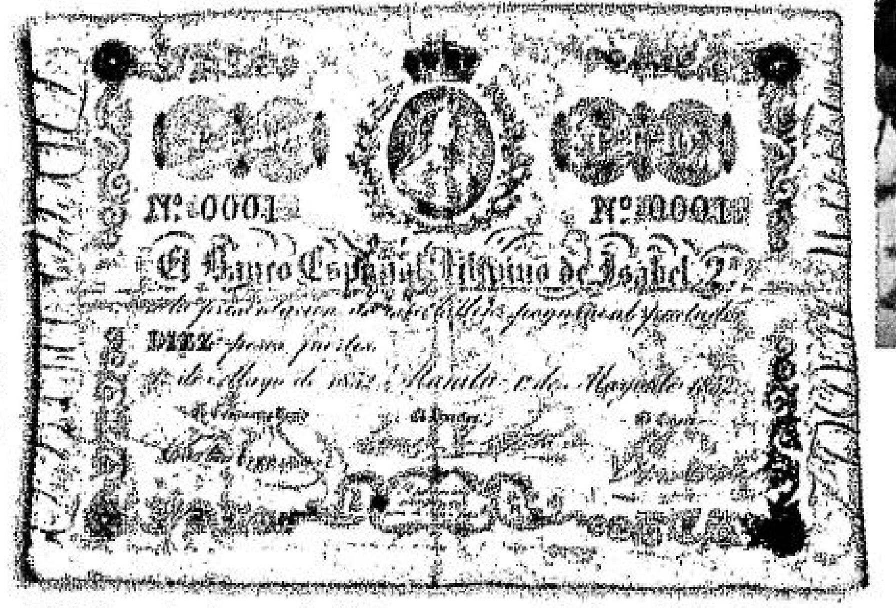
In the case of paintings done by Philippine masters, the works appreciate in value through time. Coming from and depicting various periods in our history, these works, which comprise the bank's art collection, are rarely viewed in public.

Exhibits like these are a walk through history and the make for a fascinating journey. But more than just fascination, they provide an unobstructed window into our past and how we developed as a people.



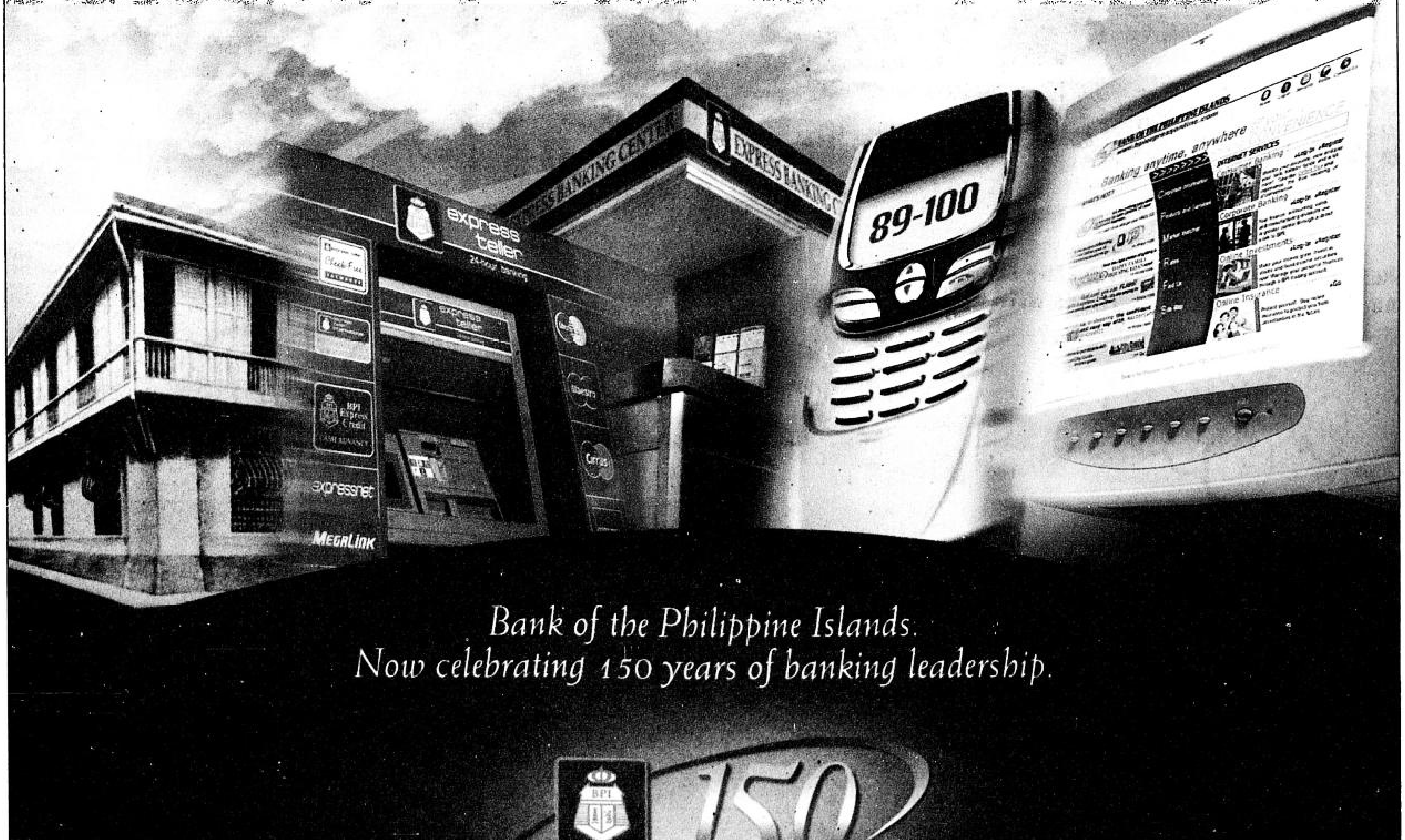


TWO examples from Juan Luna's French series done at a time when he took an interest in the working class and the Socialist movement while living in France.



THE Pesos Fuertes was the first paper money to be issued in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. Issued by the Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II—the precursor of BPI, it was redeemable in Mexican gold and silver coins which were considered the strongest currency at the time.

After 150 Years,
The First Still Does It Best.



Bank of the Philippine Islands.
Now celebrating 150 years of banking leadership.

150 YEARS

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

BPI unveils historical marker

THE unveiling of the BPI historical marker was led by (from left): BPI SEVP and BPI Family Bank president Aurelio Montinola III; BPI president Xavier Loinaz; BPI director Fernando Zobel de Ayala; Makati City mayor Jejomar Binay; and National Historical Institute chairman and executive director Dr. Pablo Trillana III.

A MOMENT in history was captured recently with the unveiling of the BPI Historical Marker at the BPI head office in Makati City.

The first Marker ever installed along Ayala Avenue, the heart of the financial district, its unveiling was part of activities marking the 150th anniversary of the pioneer in Philippine Banking—the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Turning 150 is a defining moment for the country's first financial house—the very first to open its doors to serve the banking needs of Filipinos.

BPI has reason to be proud, afterall, it has deep historical roots. The BPI Marker attests to its historic evolution in the country's banking system.

"The BPI Historical Marker is the embodiment of our strengths, our stability and our tradition of leadership," BPI president Xavier P. Loinaz said in his acceptance speech.

The Marker was unveiled by Dr. Pablo Trillana III, Chairman and Executive Director of the National Historical Institute; Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay; BPI Director Fernando Zobel de Ayala; BPI President Xavier P. Loinaz; and BPI Senior Executive Vice President Aurelio Montinola III.

Another highlight of the anniversary celebrations was the opening of "Be Part of BPI's History Memorabilia" exhibit at the BPI lobby.

In an effort to preserve history, BPI launched last year a campaign in search of old memorabilia items like bank notes and coins issued by the bank, old passbooks, annual reports, and other bank documents.

If you want to see how a bank transaction document looked like in 1855, you can take a look at large transaction record book of the old *El Banco Español filipino de Isabel II* dated May 10, 1855.

Also exhibited is an old passbook of Dr. Jose Rizal's sister issued by the Plaza Cervantes BPI branch on June 8, 1931.

There are many interesting pieces in the exhibit for those who treasure memorabilia items.

BPI's anniversary this year is not just another anniversary, is is the commemoration of Philippine banking history itself. Afterall, it was BPI which laid the cornerstone in Philippine banking.

BPI is backed by 150 years of banking leadership, a position no other bank has ever enjoyed.

Happy birthday to the country's first bank!

BPI Ingot: a historical treasure

PESOS FUERTES
THE FIRST BANKNOTE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ASIA 1852

BPI Gold Ingot

PHILIPPINE banking reaches new heights this year as the country's oldest bank marks 150 proud years of financial strength, stability and growth.

Imbued with a heritage of excellence and leadership, the Bank of the Philippine Islands celebrates an extraordinary milestone, having set the pace of banking in the country. For, indeed, the history of BPI is a chronology of Philippine banking itself.

To commemorate this special event, BPI is issuing a premium collector's item—the BPI 150th Anniversary Ingot, a commemorative coin crafted in gold and in silver. These collector's pieces are minted in two troy ounces of .999 gold or fine silver by the Franklin Mint.

A rare historical piece, the BPI Ingot is the embodiment of the highest standards of banking excellence and BPI's basic principles of integrity and outstanding service. An investment worth keeping, availing of the prized commemorative item is like owning a part of Philippine Banking history.

The doors of banking opened in 1851 when *Banco Español Filipino de Isabel II*, BPI's forerunner, spurred economic activities as it commenced operations to meet the public's banking needs.

The Bank forged ahead undaunted by crises and upheavals, continuously exploring areas to provide convenience banking services through cutting-edge technology.

Through a century and a half, the country's first financial institution established a reputation of unchallenged leadership in the industry. BPI has remained the most technologically advanced bank as it built on its traditional strengths in the pursuit of innovations in products, services and systems.

In its 150 years of existence, the Bank has blazed trails to serve the ever-changing demands and needs of the banking public. It has lived up to its reputation as a leader, continuously introducing a wide range of technologically superior products and services.

Electronic banking is synonymous to BPI in the local banking community. A trendsetter in convenience banking, BPI is driven by the need to face the challenges of the new century.

Over the years, BPI has stood as a pillar of growth and stability in the banking sector. As it celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, it renews its commitment to place quality, excellence and innovation at the core of its operations.

What better way to celebrate 150 years of record-breaking achievements in banking than having a commemorative item to remember history by. The BPI 150th Anniversary Ingot. It's history in your hands.

BPI launches E-Credit account

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has just introduced its newest product innovation, BPI Card's BPI E-Credit Account, during a press launch at the Vigan Room of the BPI Head Office in Makati City. The BPI E-Credit Account is one of the BPI's 150th anniversary offerings.

The BPI E-Credit Account is a MasterCard virtual account that is for use as a payment mechanism for making transactions in virtual environments such as the Internet and, eventually, mobile telephony (WAP).

The launch kicked off with welcome remarks by BPI VP (Cards Group Head) Tessie Tan and product introduction by BPI Card president Jojo Ocampo. BPI Card product head Butch Reyes performed an interactive presentation on the use of the BPI E-Credit Account while BPI SVP for Consumer Loans Ric de la Torre did the closing remarks. BPI VP for corporate communications Roni Tapia-Merk emceed the event.

The BPI E-Credit Account acts as a separate line for installment purchases, and is a line for Internet specific purchases only. The BPI E-Credit uses a separate number from the BPI MasterCard. The regular credit card number and the total credit limit will not be compromised.

Clients can even avail of lower interest rates on Internet purchases. They simply have to transfer their E-Credit balance of at least P5,000 to their Special Installment Plan limit. Aside from the more affordable interest, customers can earn "Frequent User, Sure Winner" points for free gifts.

The BPI E-Credit Account is issued with a reference device which carries data similar to a physical card except that it has no MasterCard hologram, magnetic stripe, embossing, and signature panel. This makes sure that the reference device will not be presented for over-the counter credit card payments.

The BPI E-Credit Account makes BPI the first company to issue a virtual account in the industry. Indeed another assertion of BPI's leadership in electronic banking in its 150th anniversary this year.

BPI
5424 5805 0840 3461
WILLIAM P. REYES

AT THE launch of the new BPI E-Credit Account (from left): MasterCard county manager Poch Villa-Real; MasterCard VP for marketing Judith Dayrit; BPI VP Tessie Tan; BPI Card president Jojo Ocampo, and BPI SVP Ric de la Torre.

BPI branches dress up for 150th year

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and BPI Family Bank clients were pleasantly surprised when they visited their branches and kiosks of account from July 30 to August 3.

That's because BPI was holding the "Dress Up Your Branch" contest, a commemorative activity for the bank's 150th anniversary.

BPI Unibankers spruced up and decorated their respective branches and kiosks based on a chosen theme. Some of the branches opted for the 18th-century look, complete with mini-coin and currency and memorabilia exhibits of their own. Even the staff dressed up in turn-of-the-century get up, with the guards dressed up as revolutionaries.

There was even a branch honoring the bank's technological edge and leadership in electronic banking by going for the Space Age look, with the premises looking like an intergalactic environment. And, yes, the staff and the guards dressed the out-of--this-world part.

There were branches and kiosks that sported a decidedly Filipiniana theme. Apart from the obligatory *baro't saya* and *barong*, one group even held a *pabitin* to finish the festive mood.

Still another branch went for the different eras of the Philippines. The staff divided the eras among themselves: Japanese era, American era, and so on. Clients were naturally surprised to find Japanese geishas and retro swingers attending to their banking needs.

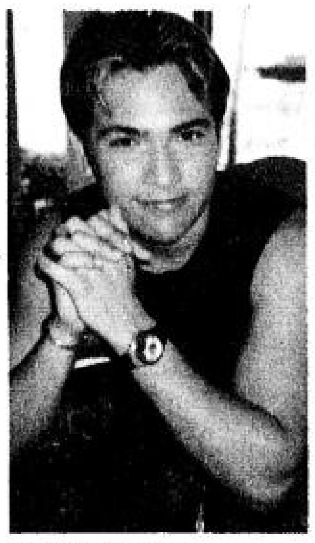
Not only did the branches and kiosks serve up a healthy dose of creativity. They also served refreshments on "Open-House Day". Clients were treated to everything from ice cream to native delicacies.

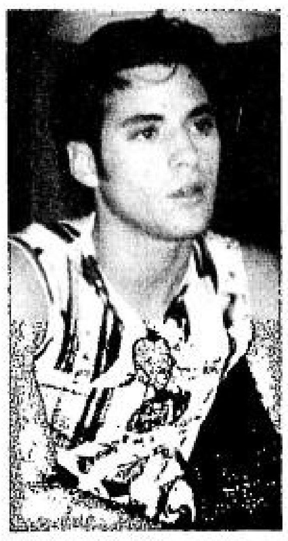
WHETHER it's turn-of-the-century, native, or Space Age, Unibankers literally dressed their parts.

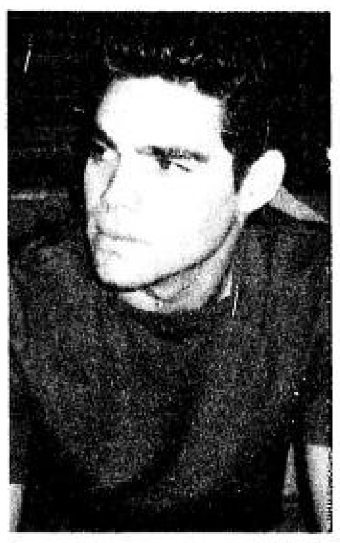
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
June 30, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	7,716,713,967
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		29,710,189,374
Due from Other Banks		46,536,828,323
Interbank Loans Receivable		1,201,000,000
Trading Account Securities (Net)		6,977,587,310
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		99,822,574,034
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		171,242,208,986
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		10,447,464,958
Assets Attributable to Insurance Operations		12,559,883,011
Other Assets (Net)		29,330,261,928
TOTAL ASSETS	**P**	**415,544,711,891**
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Demand Deposits	P	31,155,827,953
Savings Deposits		215,519,345,137
Time Deposits		80,075,473,483
Total Deposits		326,750,646,573
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		326,593,811
Due to Other Banks		126,626,046
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,026,778,122
Bills Payable		8,442,459,777
Liabilities Attributable to Insurance Operations		10,313,691,000
Other Liabilities		15,905,412,062
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**P**	**363,892,207,391**
Minority Interest in Subsidiaries	P	295,527,957
Capital Stock	P	15,330,218,293
Surplus		35,053,442,914
Surplus Reserves		973,315,336
TOTAL CAPITAL	**P**	**51,356,976,543**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	**P**	**415,544,711,891**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements (at NAV)	P	184,194,851,699
Bills for Collection		4,047,427,815
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		5,323,630,862
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		28,945,928,114
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		5,158,531,319
Other Contingent Accounts		2,274,078,063

ABEL Talamantez


PABLO Portillo


ALEXIS Grullon


DIDIER Hernandez

CALEB Aviles Reyes

TASTE MDO's new album, "A Little Piece of Heaven."

From Menudo to MDO

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

"WE can only be ourselves," said MDO, the latest boy band to hit the airwaves, during an interview held at the Laguna Phuket resort some weeks back. "Once you see us perform, once you hear our music, you'll realize what makes us different."

Flashback to 1997 when the music industry witnessed the birth of what was considered "the most important pop band" in Latin America. Leaving behind their name Menudo (yup, that Latino group all ye Pinays got crazy over back in the 1980s), MDO matured into young men to begin a new chapter in the Menudo story book.

The members—Abel Talamantez, Alexis Grullon, Didier Hernandez, Pablo Portillo and Caleb Aviles Reyes—all exude that Latin flair. They dress in a more edgy way, with none of that lollipops-and-roses, boy-band-next-door look. When they performed at the Sony conference at Phuket, they sizzled with sexy moves, enough to drive the audience into wild bursts of applause. The girls screamed at every hip thrust.

Abel, 22, comes from a small town in Texas and is the self-proclaimed "leader" of the band. Alexis, 24, is from New York but of Dominican (Republic) descent. He has been with Menudo for 10 years, witnessing the whole "Menudomania" some years back.

Didier, 22, is from Cuba and, along with Alexis and Abel, has written several songs in the group's repertoire in the six years that he has been with the band. Pablo hails from Monterey, Mexico, where at the age of 8 he joined the Metropolitan Chorus. Caleb, the group's latest addition, joined the band after a stint with Euphoria, a Puerto Rican band.

The group's performance was a fusion of salsa and meringue, not your typical boy-band fare. In the middle of their performance, they even did cartwheels, which further impressed their audience. Warning, this boy band is **not** for minors.

That girl question

Now for the perennial boy band question, "What do you like in a girl?"

Abel likes a girl with attitude and mystery. Caleb wants a girl who "loves me for me" while Didier, in true Latin fashion, simply says, "I love all women." Alexis prefers one who will understand his work, because he travels a lot to perform. Pablo wants his to be a fighter and a strong woman.

They finished each other's sentences, laughed at each other's jokes while still exuding the warmth that only years of being together as a group could establish. "We get along great," said Abel. Didier continued, "We like many different types of music and just try to mix all of it to come up with our individual style."

Love of music inspires them in their careers, with Elvis Presley, James Brown and fellow Latino Ricky Martin as their icons. "Ricky can have all the success and his feet will still be planted on the ground," noted Alexis, who had worked with Ricky when both were with the old Menudo.

"How was your teenage life, what with all the traveling that you guys do?" I asked.

"We didn't have the typical teenage years, because we were going around 20 or 30 countries, but we made friends everywhere, saw things for our own eyes," said Pablo. "We missed high school prom, but I'm not going to change it for anything," Caleb said. "We matured faster," Abel noted.

"We're on the road with our manager a lot. People think it's simple but it's a lot of work," Alexis said. "We want to take our music everywhere, we want to be heard."

Tagalog songs

MDO has a new album, "A Little Piece of Heaven," from which Pinoys can sample their breed of Latin pop. And not only that, MDO has just recorded not one, but two Filipino songs for their next album, "Sana Maulit Muli" being one of them. With the help of Sony's genius, Tato Malay, the members learned their Tagalog well. And according to Sony big boss Wally Chamsay, they are coming here in October!

They're not new kids on the block or another boy band. In fact, they started the boy-band rage

So, what's the naughtiest or craziest thing they've done? "In a hotel in Peru, we were knocking on people's doors. The more the guests were getting agitated, the more we did it. One guy waited for us, and when I knocked, there he was, so I ran and hit myself in the wedge," laughed Abel.

"Once, there were about 15 girls up in my balcony with cameras taking pictures of me in my underwear, so I ran away," recalled Alexis.

Their advice to wannabe boy bands? "Follow your dreams but get an education so you have something to fall back on."

And to Filipina girls? "Hope you'll like our music and thanks for the support."

They winked naughtily.

THE AUTHOR with Sony artists MDO in Phuket, Thailand

At home in Chicago

(From page E3)

I love the nightlife

Chicago's party scene was just as exciting as anywhere I had been. I thought the warehouses in downtown Chicago looked pretty bad in the morning. I never knew that the party we were going to would be held in one of those warehouse-transformed nightclubs. Sassy picked Don and I up at the hotel where I was staying. Fifteen minutes later we were at Nocturnal, one of Chicago's hottest nightspots. We were greeted at the gate with the usual age inspection. In the US, the age limit rule is strictly enforced in clubs. No one under 21 was allowed in Nocturnal. Past the entrance, was Olympus. I had never seen so many gods and goddesses gathered in one place as in Nocturnal. The party seemed destined to be one of the best I have ever attended.

Without fuss, Don, Sassy and I squeezed ourselves into the dance crowd. Gyrating music filled the halls of the jazzed-up warehouse. On the dance floor, everybody danced with everyone else without reservations. It wasn't long before Don spotted a tall blond model in tight-fitting shirt that would have put Arnold Schwarzenegger-circa-Mr. Universe-era to shame... seriously. It turned out Sassy spotted the same guy, too. May the best man... or woman win.

Nocturnal is only one of many emerging night spots in Chicago. At the cross streets of Rush and Division there are equally glitzy spots, such as the Bar of Chicago, Mother's, Alumni Club, Shenanigan and Leg Room. At the heart of downtown Chicago, Excalibur and White Star are the clubs where anyone would want to be seen. And one of the more popular is Spin, where guests are invited, actually challenged, to bubble bathe on stage. The most seductive and alluring performer (male or female) gets a hefty prize, of course.

A few hours and a thousand dance steps later, we decided to call it a night. Don wanted us to bar-hop, but all that dancing made my feet ache for some rest. And so with Sassy behind the wheels, we once again cruised Chicago's fine highways and witnessed its magical skyline as we headed to my hotel.

Home is where the heart is

The first time I set foot on Chicago, I knew I was in a special place. I never thought I'd fall in love with it but I did; thanks in part to the host and hostess who are the mostest, my friends Don and Sassy. But credit goes to the charms and beauty of the City of Chicago.

On my last day in the city, we toured the city streets once more. I just wanted to get a feel of Chicago on a weekend and it was just as beautiful. And on this last day, an exhibit that partly was my inspiration for this story had started. Each year, the city displays thematic artworks along key points in the city—to highlight an issue or to celebrate an important event.

The year that the Chicago Bulls became world champions for the third straight year, life-sized bulls stylized by famous amateur and professional Chicago-based artists were on display. They added an interesting twist to city life, and were especially popular among local and foreign tourists. Each "bull" was then auctioned and proceeds were used to support various charities in the city.

The tradition continues and this time, what was being celebrated was the beauty of being "at home" in Chicago. All over the city, from the malls to the side streets, from the plazas to the airport, stylized versions of the typical "Chicago" living rooms were on display. It was impossible to take a picture of each one; there were just too many of them, and I had very little time. Soon, I'd have to go the airport to go to San Francisco.

Other attractions

There are, of course, many other must-see Chicago attractions, like the United Center, the home of the Chicago Bulls and where Michael Jordan's statue is. I asked my friends to take me there many times, but somehow something comes up somewhere. The Shedd Aquarium and the Museum of Science and Industry are also famous and well-loved tourist spots.

Other points of interest, which I have scheduled for my next visit, are the Water Tower and Chicago's universities, some of the best in the US, such as Northwestern University and Columbia University, as well as the University of Chicago. And, of course, I intend to reserve a seat on board the Spirit of Chicago to take a tour of the city through Lake Michigan. Then, there's the unscheduled hunt for MTV's "Realworld" cast. The show is one of the pioneers of reality TV in the US and has been one of the more popular. The first edition featured a cast from New York. Now, it's Chicago's turn to show the world the stuff it's made of. Just last week, my friends were in the shoot of the cast in a Thai restaurant in Boystown.

Meanwhile, I felt I didn't need to rush, as I was certain I would be coming back. Oddly enough, as I took pictures of artworks—artists' renditions of a Chicago home—I felt I had found my home away from home...

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45 Years and a Golden Goal

It was a simple yet noble dream.
The commitment was sincere.
The determination was too strong to ignore.

So it came to pass that fifteen physicians came back from their special studies abroad to mold a common desire to help their fellow Filipinos. They saw the need to use their acquired medical knowledge for the benefit of the community. A need that would later materialize into one of the country's most admired and widely respected medical institutions today - the Manila Doctors Hospital.

The conception was 45 years ago, and the results can still be seen and felt by more and more patients from all over the country. They have come far and wide to seek medical attention, and discover to their relief that they can receive more. For not only are patients of the MDH given physical healing against ailments, but also a dose of wellness of being. A warm offer, indeed, especially during these difficult times of bodily and spiritual hurt.

The Birth of a Mission

It was the year 1951. The intention of the fifteen physicians was concrete and specific: to establish a medical facility that would provide the best professional service using the most modern diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. So they pooled their resources together and founded the Manila Medical Services, Inc. Three years later, construction of the hospital commenced on a lot bought from the Lutheran Church.

The timing could not have been more symbolic when on the 15th of August 1956 the MDH opened its doors to the public. It was the Feast of Our Lady of Assumption. A blessed day for what would later turn out to be a blessing for a lot of people.

The MDH's mission to be the leading center of excellence in health care and wellness in the Philippines and to be a model of competent, caring, and compassionate service to the hospital's clients is now in its full form, and still growing. For years after that fateful day of hospital inauguration more blessings came pouring in. Under the administration of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres, the MDH led the hospital care industry in the country. Patients and medical practitioners alike praised the hospital for its enviable dedication to service. In fact, it has received several awards, one for being the "cleanest and most orderly private hospital in the Philippines".

Milestones and Glory Days

More than the accolades, admiration, and recognition, the Metrobank Foundation saw in MDH a promising venue for promoting corporate citizenship. The Foundation sealed the partnership with the MDH through its corporate owner Manila Medical Services, Inc. by becoming its majority stockholder in February 27, 1979. From then on, continuous renovations and expansion made MDH more equipped to serve its patients better than ever. Bed capacity and rooms were increased. New equipment and facilities were installed. Medical staff was beefed up.

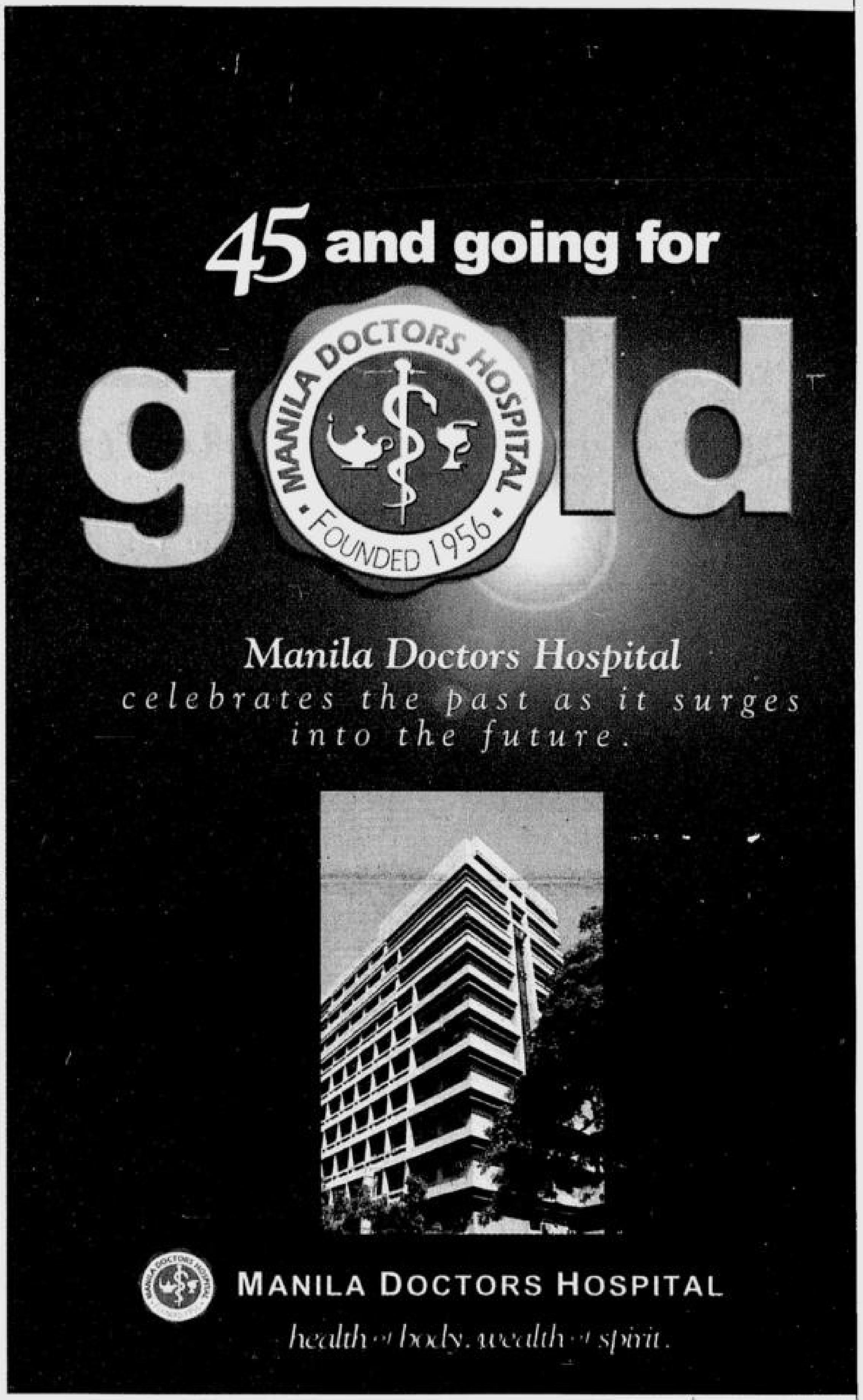
The inevitable growth gave way to the inauguration of the eight-story Medical Arts Center in August 15, 1984 where active consultants hold office. Seven years later, the Norberto Ty Medical Tower was opened to make way for further expansion and improvement, increasing the hospital's bed capacity to 300.

Needless to say, the arrival of the Metrobank Foundation and the building of bigger and better edifices provide ample support for beneficial, patient-oriented endeavors.

A Simple Twist of Faith

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
‹ Hebrews 11:1

If an institution stands on a solid foundation such as faith in our Creator, nothing can go wrong. The people behind the Manila Doctors Hospital know that their existence is not a product of mere destiny. It is a mission born out of ethical, moral, social, and spiritual beliefs. It is an institution with a conscience and genuine concern to serve and prosper for the community it belongs.



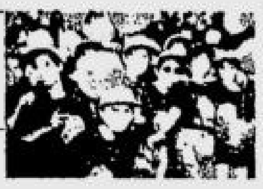
45 and going for gold

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL
FOUNDED 1956

Manila Doctors Hospital
celebrates the past as it surges into the future.

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL
health of body. wealth of spirit.

That is why the MDH is looking forward to a bright future. Something that is not just visible to the naked eye but felt in deep recesses of the heart. Today, on its 45th year, things are going well. Five years from now, everything will get even better for a golden era in the pursuit of health of body and wealth of spirit.



A Rally of Encouragement

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Allow me to congratulate all the officers and staff of the Manila Doctors Hospital on their 45th Anniversary. I also take this opportunity to commend the entire institution for its substantial contribution to our efforts to provide Manileños with affordable quality medical services.

As an important component of our nation building efforts, the promotion of our people's health and well being is at the forefront of our social development programs. While we recognize the government's primary role in this regard, we also realize that the government's resources may not always allow us to comprehensively and fully respond to the health and medical needs of our fellow Filipinos, especially the poor.

In this context, the role of private institutions such as the Manila Doctors Hospital in the delivery of vital medical services as well as in the implementation of relevant health programs becomes highly significant. I am confident that the Manila Doctors Hospital will continue to serve the needs of its target communities and client groups with the highest standards of excellence for many more years to come.

More significantly, the commitment of its principal partner, the Metrobank Foundation, to help ensure that the poor are given the opportunity to avail of the Hospital's services deserves our commendation and encouragement. In this regard, we truly hope that the Hospital becomes even more successful in providing world-class health care facilities and services to benefit not just those who can afford it, but also those who cannot.

Congratulations and more power.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

MANILA
15 August 2001

I would like to congratulate all the officers, medical personnel and staff of the Manila Doctors Hospital on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of our beloved institution.

As we mark this important historical milestone, I note with pride our achievements as an institution and the gains we have made towards providing our fellow Filipinos with quality medical services at affordable costs. As one of the country's leading health care providers, our success speaks not only of the dedication and professionalism of our staff, but of the tradition of excellence that we have been trying to uphold for the last 45 years.

We are equally proud of our commitment to help the poor as an expression of our social responsibility. Through the social service programs that are funded by the Metrobank Foundation, we shall continue to support the conduct of medical missions and community outreach clinics, as well as subsidize the hospitalization expenses of charity patients. Together, we shall continue to explore new initiatives such as the "Share the Gift of Vision" Project for the benefit of indigent patients needing cataract operations.

As we prepare the Hospital to meet the challenges of the future, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who have supported us throughout these years. We hope that together with our various partners and friends, the Manila Doctors Hospital shall maintain its leading role in the country's health care industry.

Thank you very much and congratulations to all!

George S.K. Ty
Chairman, Manila Medical Services, Inc.
Chairman, Metrobank and the Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

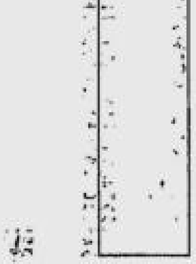
On this 45th year of existence of Manila Doctors Hospital, several developments have depicted our drive to achieve our vision of being a center of excellence in healthcare and wellness. To ensure customer satisfaction through effective and efficient service, this year we have developed and enhanced implementation of programs on quality assurance, quality certification by ISO, public relations and training for better client care. We have been constantly accelerating staff development and expanding medical staff membership resulting in our present number of over 300 and over 650 active and visiting staff members, respectively. We have been trying to develop and improve our facilities though hampered by practical considerations and limitations. To improve sustainability, steps have been made especially for credit and collection.

A vital area which the hospital is expected to benefit from is enhancement of professional management. On the 3rd quarter of this anniversary year, we are in the process of amplifying such expertise through a management company and a professional executive manager.

The succeeding years will be even more exciting though challenging as we make broader preparations for our hospital at Metropolitan Park. We are optimistic that whatever we encounter along the way, Divine guidance, Metrobank Foundation support and the dedication of the men and women that comprise the family of Manila Doctors Hospital will see us through.

Happy 45th anniversary to all of us!

DANTE D. MORALES, M.D.
Medical Director



Greetings to all on the 45th Anniversary of our beloved Manila Doctors Hospital.

This year's celebration theme, "45 and Going for Gold," reminds us all that the Manila Doctors Hospital has a glorious past that we can all be proud of. At the same time, the theme prods us to look forward and participate in the attainment of a bright future - the gold of excellence, the gold of caring service, the gold of the 50th anniversary five years from now.

Even as we look forward to the new MDH at the Metropolitan Park, let us begin to "go for the gold" here at our present premises. We have embarked on important undertakings to equip ourselves with the necessary knowledge and skills to improve on our services to our clients. Through the "We Care 4 U" program, we are jointly undertaking a re-evaluation of our relationships with both our internal and external customers. Through the ISO program, we will rationalize and streamline our hospital systems and procedures. Moreover, we continue to update and upgrade our diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and facilities.

"Going for Gold" is not easy. Nor is it a job only of the Administration. Going for gold is everyone's job. Our MDH can regain its golden luster only if all of us get together in the act. Each of us has a job to do. Each and every job is important in our effort to attain our Vision and our Mission. Let each of us continue to do our jobs well and we will be on our way.

Let us congratulate ourselves on our 45th year and let us, all together, GO FOR GOLD.

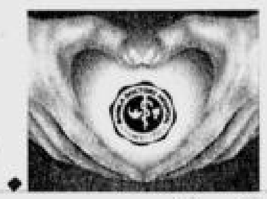
SISTER ESTELLE MARIE CAMAGAN, SPC
Administrator

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL

MANILA DOCTORS HOSPITAL

Nothing must be left to chance. Even beautiful beginnings have to be planned. Or were the early days just the unfolding of another divine plan?

You could say that the different sectors of society it was meant to serve had their individual roles to play in the birth of the Manila Doctors Hospital.



health of body. wealth of spirit

Vision

Manila Doctors Hospital as the leading center of excellence in healthcare and wellness in the Philippines providing holistic quality patient-and client-centered service in partnership with stakeholders.

Representing the government, First Lady Luz Magsaysay stood as principal sponsor, alongside Earl Carrol, Philamlife Insurance Company President, representing the private / business sector in the Hospital's inauguration in August 1956 on its site originally owned by the Lutheran Church. And to strengthen this image further, Sr. La Croix de Jesus Ylagan, sat as Administrator with the Congregation of St. Paul de Chartres, missionaries focused on education and pastoral care of the sick and underpriviledged, managing daily operations.

No wonder that the Manila Doctors Hospital was hailed as one of the best in the Far East, both in facilities and medical services, staff support and appointments even during those early years.

Recently, the Hospital was conferred the Five Stars Award by the Department of Health. Its residents, too, were honored by their peers, among them Dr. Jose Sanchez, Most Outstanding physician of the Makati Medical Society, and Dr. Crisostomo Arcilla Jr., Most Outstanding Faculty of the Year of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society.

To this day, the Manila Doctors Hospital has lived up to its reputation for quality medical services and a strong social service orientation. Its mission and philosophy reflect those of Norberto Ty's universal outlook a legacy carried on by his son, Metrobank Foundation Chairman George S.K. Ty. Even with the planned construction of the new Hospital announced in 1999, the goal of being the country's premier center of wellness while upholding the institution's tradition of serving the health needs of the marginalized sector of society does not lie forgotten.

Health of Body, Wealth of Spirit. As it was in the early beginnings in the 1950s, down to the next century, Manila Doctors Hospital has always remained true to the reasons for its existence.

Treading the Path to a Golden Future

The MDH manifests its virtue through various programs involving both its clients and staff. This is perhaps best illustrated by the hospital's motto: We Care. It is therefore not surprising that the hospital includes among its endeavors the "We Care 4 U' program which was officially launched recently. The name stands for WEllness: Compassionate Action Responding with Empathy and Urgency. It aims to promote the value of good relations between patient and hospital employee. All MDH employees are provided with training seminars that tackle various aspects of customer service.

The MDH also extends its customer-oriented service through the construction of a new Medical Doctors Hospital at the Metropolitan Park along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City made possible through a P1.2 Billion endowment fund set up by Metrobank Foundation Chairman George S.K.Ty on the occasion of his youngest son, Alfred Ty's wedding to Cherry Tan. The new building, an integral part of Mr. Ty's "Gift of Gratitude", will be built with the cooperation of Hospitalia ActivHealth, a German-based firm with worldwide turnkey hospital erection, will include new state-of-the-art facilities anchoring on world-class standards of service professionalism.

Spirits run high at the MDH as more employees are motivated to participate in the hospital's vision of being the best medical institution. Service goes beyond internal improvement development as more outreach programs are undertaken. One such program is the MDH's "Share the Gift of Vision" program which offers free cataract operations to indigent Filipinos, especially those who reside in underserved areas. The hospital aims to serve up to 1,000 beneficiaries within the next 3 years. Initiatives like these are so inspiring that even private corporations offer their hand in facilitating other MDH community projects.

Education is also an area of concern for the MDH. The MDH Medical Internship Training Program, for example, serves as a vehicle for future doctors to be exposed in actual medical practice. Aside from lectures, interns also get to experience community missions as part of their training. Through this program, the MDH's virtue of service is passed on to the interns and serves as their guide to their future medical practice. Another educational pursuit is the Manila Doctors College which provides quality medical education as well as scholarship grants for poor and deserving undergradutes, through a partnership with the Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

With these programs, the MDH is confident that the next five years will be even more successful as the previous 45 fruitful years. Starting today, all the employees of the MDH vow to work harder for that golden future.

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Manila Doctors Hospital 45th Anniversary Celebration Line-Up of Activities

AUGUST 2001

4 (Saturday)	FREE CLINIC (MDH Compound)
6-14	NOVENA MASSES
9-11	TIANGGE
10 (Friday)	CONFERENCE ON MARY (10:00 a.m., Tangco Hall) MDH MSA FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (6:00 p.m., Tangco Hall)
11 (Saturday)	MDH-METROBANK FOUNDATION. INC. MEDICAL MISSION (Gaches Village)
12 (Sunday)	FUN RUN (5:00 a.m.) MS. MDH MOTORCADE (7:30 a.m.) BINGO SOCIAL (1:00 p.m.)
12 (Sunday)	MDH-METROBANK FOUNDATION. INC. CATARACT MISSION (MDH-OR) As part of the "Share the Gift of Vision" program
13 (Monday)	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRESENTATION
14 (Tuesday)	MDH FAMILY ROSARY (2:30 p.m., Lobby)
15 (Wednesday)	THANKSGIVING MASS/AWARDS PRESENTATION (8:00 a.m., Tangco Hall) ISO PROJECT LAUNCHING (10:00 a.m.) In-charge: Dr. Reynaldo Joson/ Dr. Elizabeth Asa MDH-METROBANK FOUNDATION. INC. WINNERS FORUM (12:00 noon) (Scientific Presentation) MDH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM (6:00 p.m., Philam Auditorium) In-charge: Dr. Herminia Mesina Isaac
15-22	PAINTING EXHIBIT Dr. Romeo Gutierrez, Department of Surgery
To be scheduled	BLOOD LETTING In-charge: Sonia Ansay

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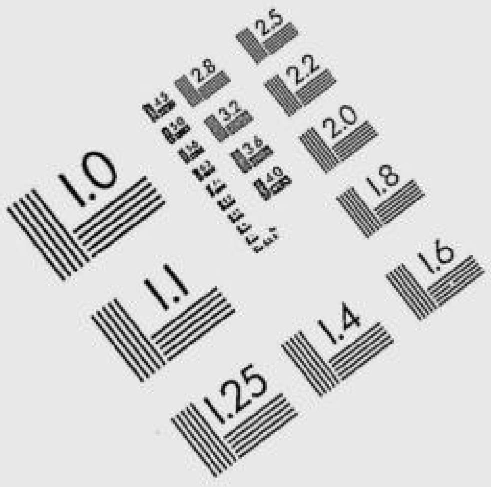
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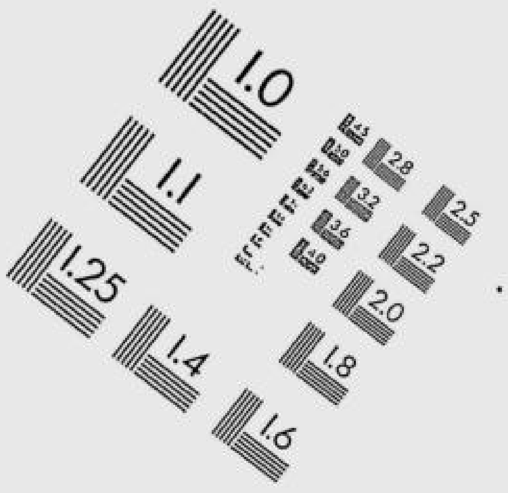
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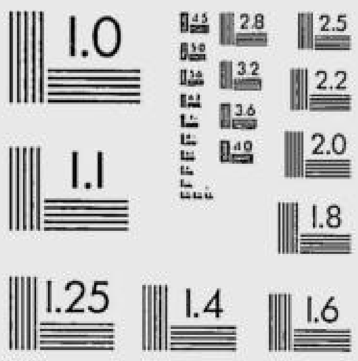
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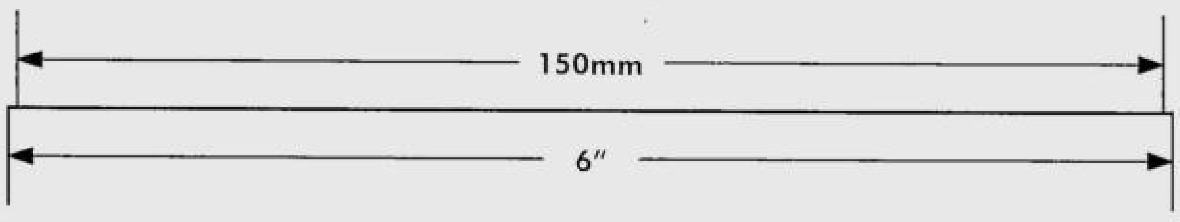

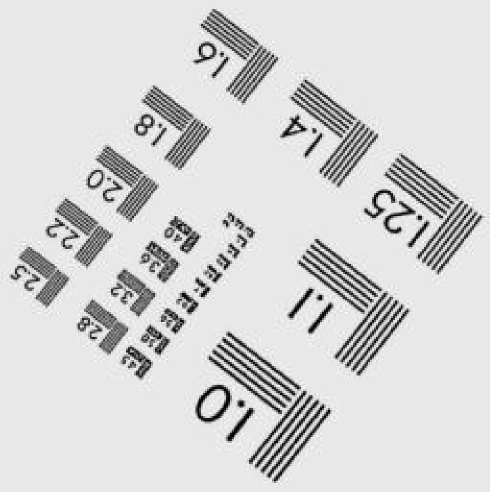
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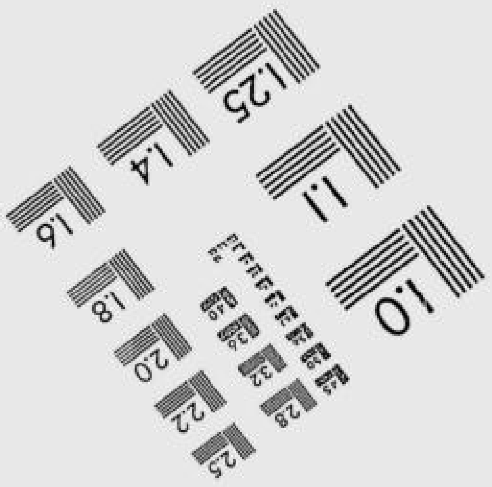
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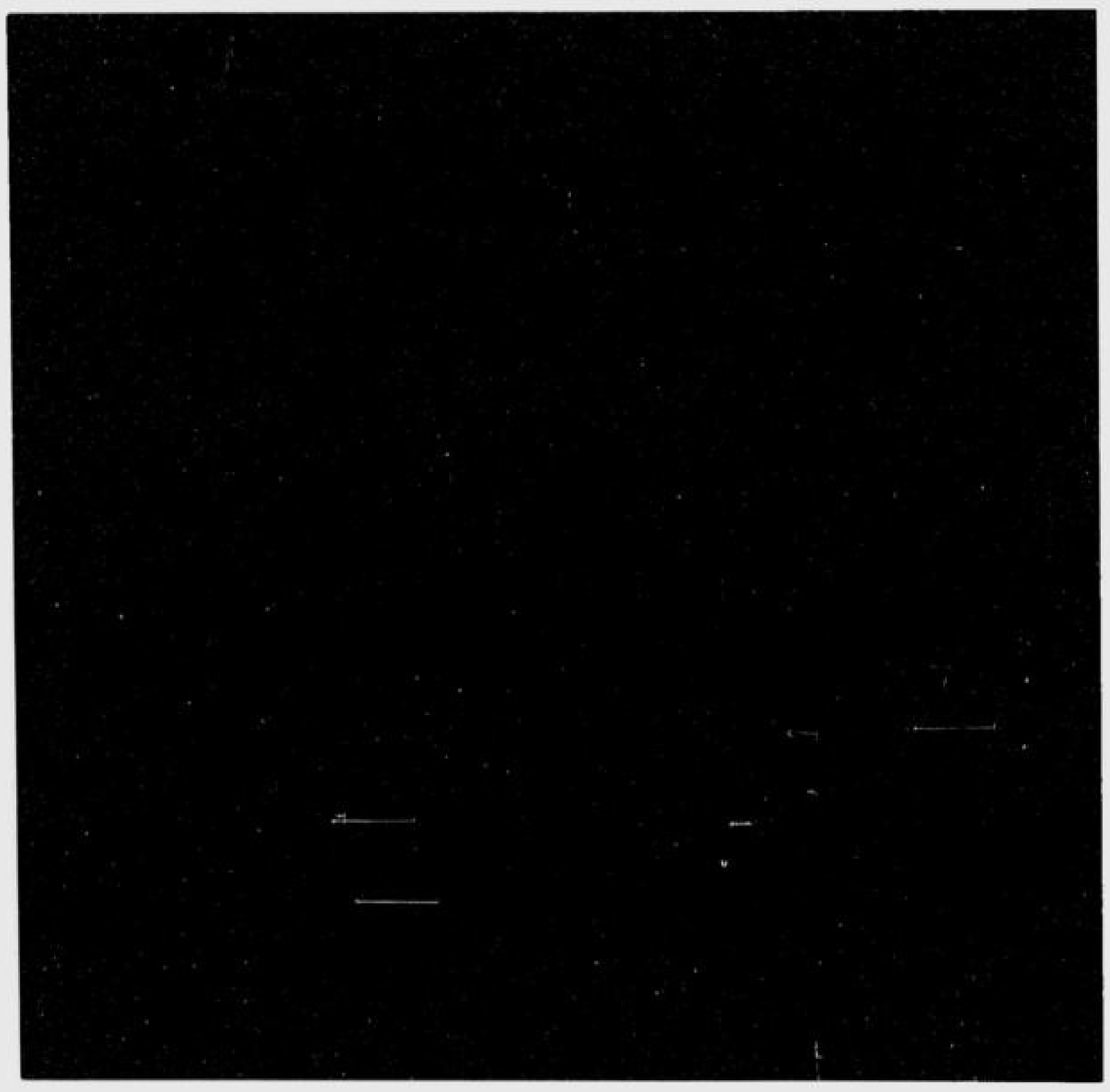

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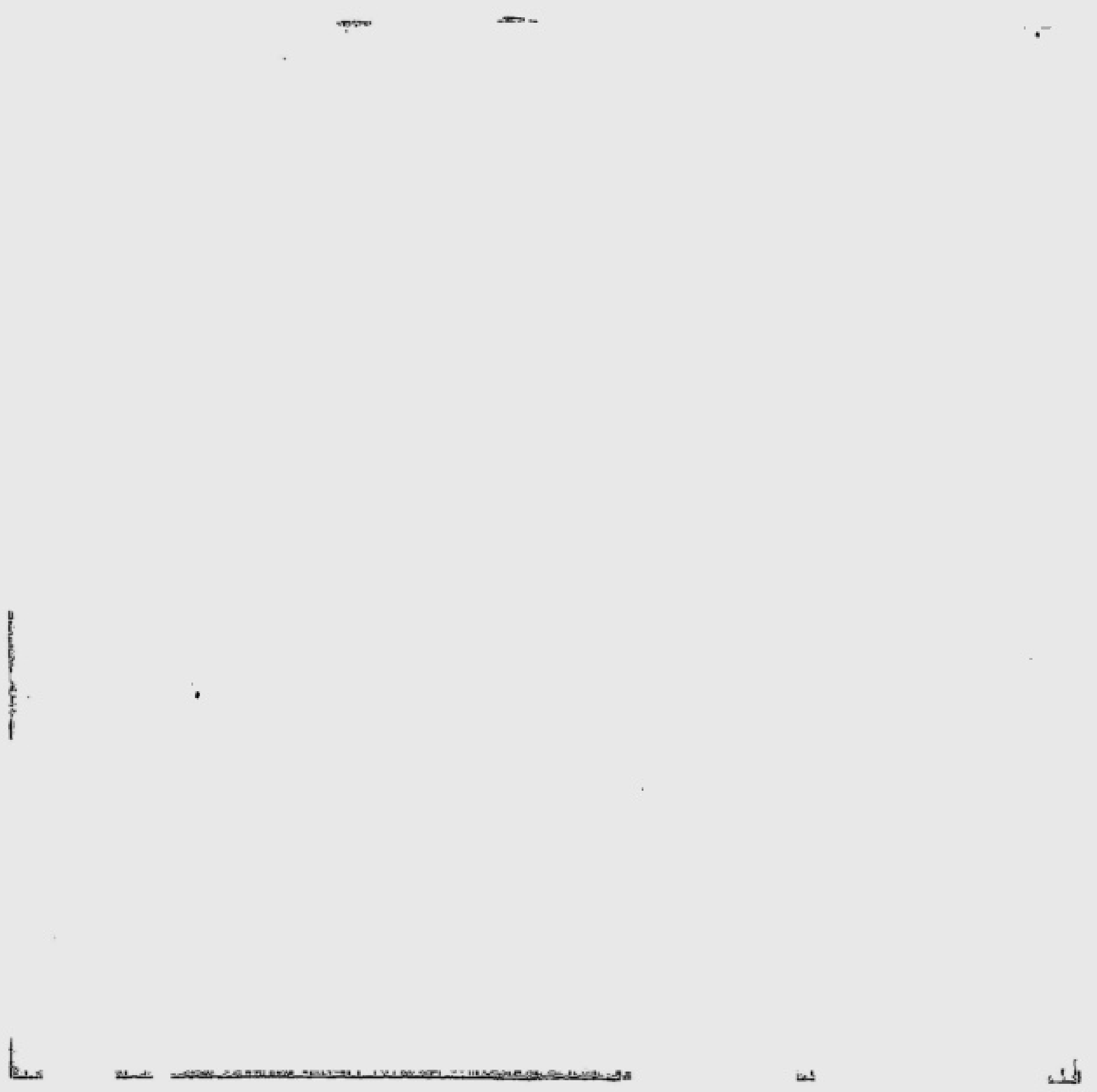

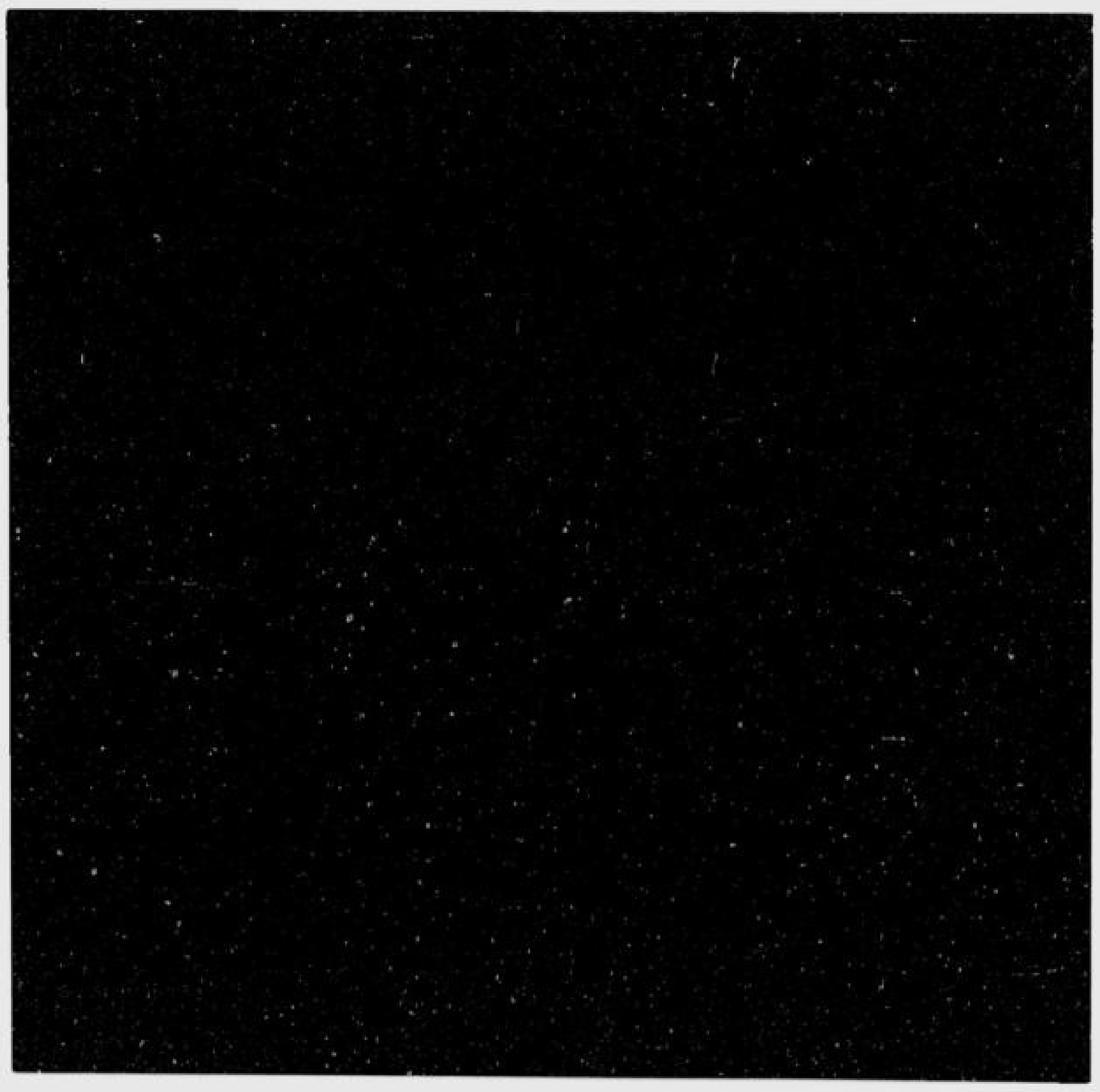

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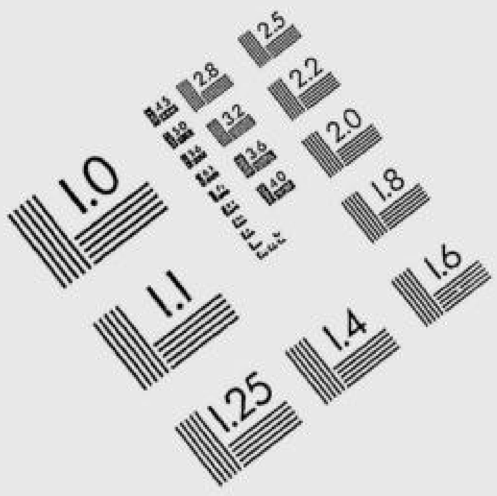
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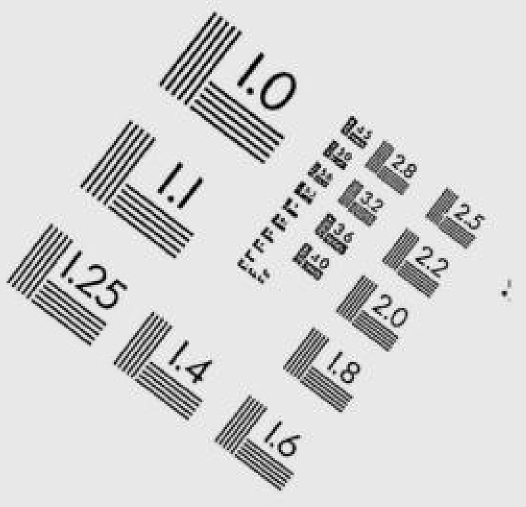
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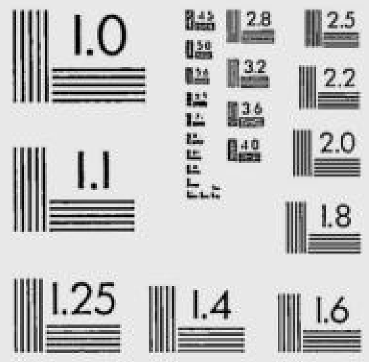
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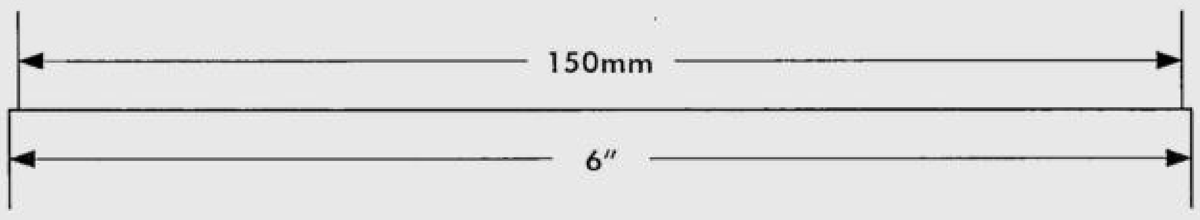

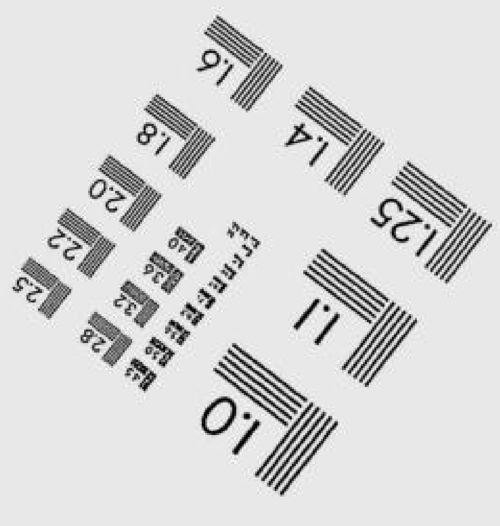
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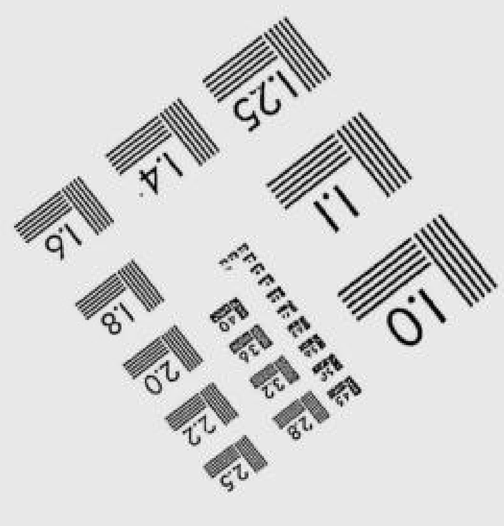
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